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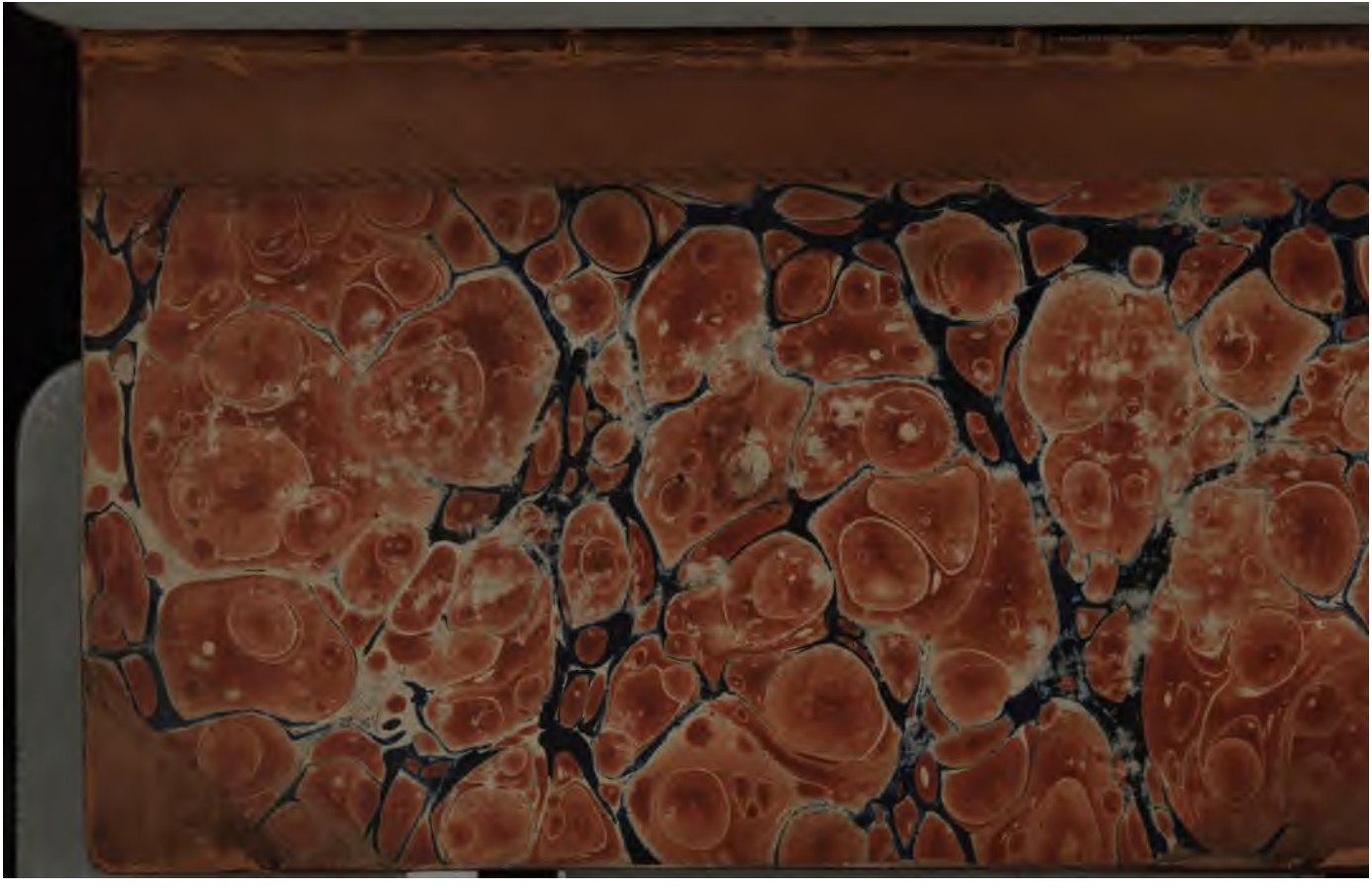

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THE

DOMESTIC GUIDE

TO THE

FOOTSTOOL OF MERCY:

A COURSE OF

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS

FOR ONE MONTH;

WITH

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS,

AND

AN INDEX OF SCRIPTURES FOR FAMILY READING.

BY CHARLES WILLIAMS.

BODLEIANA BIBLIOTHECA

"God only knows what a Church may arise from one godly family, what a harvest may spring up from a single seed; and, on the other hand, it is impossible to say, how many souls may perish by the treacherous neglect of a single person, and, to speak plainly, by *your own*."

Doddridge's Address to the Master of a Family.

LONDON:

FREDERICK WESTLEY AND A. H. DAVIS,

10, STATIONERS' COURT, AND AVE-MARIA LANE.

1828.

942.

J. T. HINTON, WARWICK-SQUARE.

TO THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

UNDER HIS PASTORAL CARE,

AND TO ALL THE ATTENDANTS ON HIS MINISTRY,

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED,

WITH EARNEST PRAYERS

FOR THE PREVALENCE AND PROSPERITY OF RELIGION

IN THEIR FAMILIES,

BY THEIR FAITHFUL SERVANT

AND AFFECTIONATE FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

SHOULD the cause of preparing this volume be inquired, the answer is, the smaller collections of prayers were, it was thought, not sufficiently diversified and comprehensive, and the larger too costly for general use; and hence it appeared peculiarly desirable to provide a work, including, so far as possible, the variety of the latter at the expence of the former.

The necessity of publications of this kind, it is presumed, need not now be established. Though extempore prayer be preferable to the use of a form, it is obvious, that many heads of families feel incompetent to its adoption in their domestic circles, and but for such aids could not present their morning and evening sacrifices; while the indisposition or absence of those who require no assistance may devolve the duty on others not equally gifted, who find a form absolutely indispensable. The Author would also venture to intimate, that wherever extempore prayer is offered, whether it be in the family or in the social assembly, an occasional reference to a work of this character may prevent the reiteration

of the same ideas, clothed in the same phraseology, which must always diminish the desired effect; and, by preparing the mind for a wider range of thought and a greater diversity of expression, it may considerably augment the interest and advantage of devotional exercises. Nor can he omit to state, that in the closet a pre-composed series of petitions and thanksgivings may be sometimes of value.

With one * whose "Thoughts on Private Devotion" deserve general perusal, he most fully and cordially concurs. When speaking of that preoccupation of mind which unfits it for devotion, and on the means of counteracting it, he says, "A corrective of this *mental alienation* or *prepossession* is to be found in the well-known expedient of using (at least in a way of preparation) the pious sentiments of others. The devotional parts of Scripture, and the reading or recitation of sacred poetry, have an obvious tendency to tranquillize and elevate the thoughts; and, perhaps, the partial, or introductory adoption of forms of worship, in secret, is sometimes profitable. There may, indeed, be a wrong and profitless use of *all* these helps; and particularly with regard to forms of worship, it is conceivable, that some who desire to "pray with the spirit," may yet needlessly resort to them as a customary resource from mental effort; yet where the mind is in the state now described it may be found more practicable, (and that by

* J. Sheppard, Esq.

Christians who are quite awake to the danger of formality,) to adopt from the heart the ideas and desires of others, than to collect and express their own; while those ideas and desires may be likewise in themselves more spiritual, more copious, more appropriate, than any which, in such circumstances, could be at once originated. If experience prove to an individual, that, by such aid his "heart is" sometimes more "fixed" than without it, he, certainly, by its use, on such occasions, consults the true ends of all worship—his own spiritual benefit and the glory of God."

In the accomplishment of his object the Author, like those who have preceded him, has been frequently indebted to the ideas and expressions of others, but his largest resources have been found in the inspired volume; from which his quotations have been very numerous; under the full persuasion that while it furnishes an infallible rule of faith and practice, it is also the only unerring guide to acceptable supplication. That considerable difficulty attended the execution of such a work he wishes to be distinctly perceived, in order that his efforts may be regarded with candour and kindness—he has endeavoured to do "what he could"—his success would have been greater had his own wishes been realized.

Satisfied that Family Worship should include the reading of the Word of God, he felt desirous to *offer a course of* appropriate selections, excluding

parts which, as given by divine inspiration, demand our attention in private; but which are not so suitable in other circumstances. Aware that a list of passages would be very obscure to those not intimately acquainted with the Scriptures, he has prepared one which states explicitly the contents of every chapter comprised in this arrangement. From this, portions of Holy Writ adapted to particular cases may be easily gathered, while, if the Bible be read in course according to it, there will be an extensive acquaintance with the mind and will of the Most High.

May the God of all the families of the earth smile on the humble means thus consecrated to his service, and grant that it may cause to arise from many an altar, "garlanded by the social feelings," and approached morning and evening by a train of domestic worshippers, an "offering of a sweet smelling savour!"

Newark, December, 1827.

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AN

ADDRESS

TO THE

HEADS OF FAMILIES.

EVERY individual is the subject of moral accountability, as soon as his reasoning faculties are developed. From that moment, he is placed under the strongest obligations to recognize the claims of God and of man. As years roll on his sphere is enlarged,—his duties are multiplied; he on whom obedience was incumbent, is invested with authority; and with this change of circumstances, there is a proportionate increase of responsibility. However little the fact may operate, the stations of a husband, a father, a master, involve engagements peculiarly solemn and momentous,—engagements which cannot be violated without incurring a fearful amount of guilt.

To these, therefore, it becomes all who are rising into life to look with deep solicitude; to treat them as of no moment, betrays a state of awful and reckless depravity, a disposition to rush on the thick bosses of the Almighty's buckler, and to dare the fiercest vengeance of the Holy One. Those who sustain such relations have still stronger reasons for the anxious and devout examination of the trust committed to their care; and consequently, are in circumstances of far greater criminality and peril, if this be disregarded. I say *such* relations; for it ought not to be overlooked that there are many instances in which households *are under the* immediate superintendence of

females, on whom similar duties devolve; and whom I wish to be included in this plain and affectionate Address to the Heads of Families. Among you, my respected friends, it is of unspeakable importance that *personal* religion should exist and flourish. Regardless of your own souls, you are not likely to be attentive to the souls of others; or, should you be induced to regard them, your efforts will be feeble and occasional, and, in all probability, unsuccessful. The eye is the medium through which the strongest impressions are received, and hence the effect of good precepts may be easily removed by unholy examples. Take then, as your model, Joshua, the leader of the armies of the living God. He was not satisfied that his house should serve the Most High without him, he began with himself; nor was he disposed to stop here, he desired that those who formed the domestic circle should follow him; and hence he exclaimed, "As for *me and my* house, we will serve the Lord." It is not my intention to expatiate on the various parts of your duty to those whom divine providence has committed to your charge, but to confine your attention exclusively to family prayer. In so doing, I do not expect to gratify the Athenian spirit which is constantly desiring something new. This subject has been so often and so ably treated, that to do so would discover no ordinary presumption. My end will be answered, if under the blessing of God, I am the instrument of stirring up the pure minds of some by way of remembrance, and of awakening the attention of others to considerations, which have long affected the hearts of the Saviour's true disciples. O that He who is the source of wisdom may now afford his aid, that what is advanced may be accordant with the oracles of truth, and that you may be left without the shadow of an excuse if you henceforth live in the neglect of domestic devotion,—yea, with no alternative but the immediate erection in your houses of an altar to Jehovah!

In answer to the inquiry, What claims have these exercises on our observance? I proceed to offer a few observations.

Family Devotion has the claim of Reasonableness.—If you have received a favour, nothing, obviously, can be more reasonable than its acknowledgment. The faithful animal which prevented the spoliation of the midnight *plunderer*, or snatched your child from the overwhelming

waters, would be fondly caressed, as the expression of obligation. To him, who had proved himself your friend by various acts of kindness, you would offer many assurances of sincere and warm regard. If then the blessings of God call forth no return, will you contend for the character of reasonable creatures? Shall He, who setteth the solitary in families, gratify your desires of alliance with those you love? Shall your children be as olive-branches round about your table? Shall food and raiment—shelter and repose—bodily health and mental vigour be granted to you? Shall you be indulged with civil, and above all, with religious privileges, and shall not the omission of united thanksgiving and supplication be deemed irrational? It cannot with propriety be otherwise regarded. The light of revelation is not necessary to teach men that a tribute is demanded for domestic mercies from the whole domestic circle. The pagans had their family gods, in whose worship every household joined; in addition to their temple services. Their idols of brass, and wood, and stone, obtained, *unsolicited*, a homage which thousands calling themselves Christians have not rendered to Him, in whom they live, and move, and have their being; and who has solemnly and urgently *required* it of them. Surely such persons are worse than heathens! Were they what they profess to be, they would have been long ere this convinced of their error and sin, and that every principle on which the exercises of private religion and of public worship may be recommended and enforced have here their proportionate weight. "The principal part of family religion," says Archbishop Tillotson, "is prayer, every morning and evening, and reading some portion of Scripture; and this is so necessary to keep alive a sense of God and religion in the minds of men—that when it is neglected, I do not see how any family can, in reason, be esteemed a family of Christians, or, indeed, have any religion at all."

Family Devotion has the claim of Eminent Example.—Sacrifice, which was never offered without invocation, is discovered in the first human family. In the histories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you hear of no settlement or removal, without the erection of an altar for worship, and for calling on the name of the Lord. Job, in the absence of his sons and daughters, offered sacrifices for them, accompanied, undoubtedly, by prayer and praise; *and thus it is said, he* did continually. The case of Joshua,

to which allusion has already been made, is equally conclusive. After David had brought home the ark, we are told he returned to bless his household. Nothing is more probable than that he so contrived the public solemnity that it might not interfere with the worship of his family. And if this statement be compared with his own devout resolution, "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart," domestic worship will appear to have been a part of his ordinary course. Cornelius is described to us as a worshipper of God, and his family as a worshipping family. At the time of the angel's appearance he was praying in his house, or rather in his family, house being put in this case, as it often is, for household. The instances recorded of blessings bestowed on some persons in consequence of the entreaties of others, as the Woman of Canaan, and the friends of the paralytic, both warrant and encourage our supplications for the necessitous, and especially for those who are dearer to us than life. Nor is it conceivable that Jesus is not to be imitated when he took his disciples, the object of his tenderest care, *apart* to pray; since "he has left us an example that we should follow his steps." The Apostle addresses us, as well as the Hebrews, when he says, "We desire that ye be not slothful, but followers, or imitators, of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." And here are some of these distinguished beings, and amongst them Jesus the Son of God, from whose society, if unlike them, we must be excluded for ever.

Family Devotion has the claim of Personal Benefit.—The path to heaven is entered by a strait gate, and cannot be easily trodden, because of its narrowness, and of the formidable obstacles by which it is bestrewed. Whatever, therefore, encourages you to advance, and strengthens you for your course, is truly beneficial. And for you regularly to conduct the devotions of your household will be peculiarly advantageous. At such seasons you may look for the fulfilment of the promise, "They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength,"—you may expect some of the beams of the Sun of Righteousness, and of the dews of divine influence, which refresh, invigorate, and array with beauty, the plants of divine grace, which the Holy Spirit deposits in the heart of every believer. As the exertions of Christian benevolence frequently yield greater benefit to the individual agent than those he makes with a more direct reference to himself, so,

while thus occupied, a blessing will descend, which you would not otherwise enjoy. A powerful stimulus to consistency will inevitably arise. A man who regularly attends the sanctuary must feel, if he have any sensibility, that he is required by so doing to avoid many things which would otherwise not be so incongruous. But when he has to appear at the head of his household twice a day as its priest, when he has to charge them to hear the word of the Lord, and to address the Most High in their name, there is manifestly a stronger counteractive of evil. What a check is there to the sins of crimson hue of which many are guilty! What a preventive of transgressions which do not appear so atrocious! What a motive to abstain from the appearance of evil! A concern to avoid the disgrace of being like a fountain which sends forth sweet water and bitter, ought to be enough to keep you from indulging those evil tempers and dispositions during the day, which are condemned by the exercises with which it begins and concludes. That a considerable influence is exerted appears from some affecting instances in which family prayer has been laid aside. A desire for what was inconsistent with it arose, and this led to irregularity—the desire increased, and this was followed by its discontinuance. The curb was broken because restraint was felt; had there been none, it had still been worn; like the amber crosses used by some of the Romanists in Sicily, because they gratified self-complacency and occasioned no inconvenience. And it is to be feared, a conviction that family prayer will prove a barrier to certain gratifications, is the secret reason why many disregard it. If this operate with you, it becomes you seriously to take alarm, for, says Doddridge, "I hardly know a blacker symptom of damnation than a fear of being restrained in the commission of sin."

Family Devotion has the claim of Relative Advantage.—The character in which I address you supposes that you have a child or children. To you therefore the Scripture says, "Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Obedience to these precepts includes the oral communication of religious truth, its enforcement by Christian example, and the secret entreaty of the divine benediction. But the exercises now

enjoined are likely to be peculiarly effective. If *properly* passed through, how clearly may your offspring perceive the seriousness demanded, and the topics appropriate in their private supplications. From your adorations of the Divine Being they may form scriptural views of the character of God,—from your confessions of sin they may derive a conviction of their innate depravity,—from your petitions they may be led to pray for yourselves, your connexions, the church, and the world,—and from your thanksgivings a spark may emanate, which shall enkindle a flame of gratitude in their souls. Those of you whose circumstances have been particularly noticed in the devotions of the house of God, must be conscious of the interest such allusions excite, and of the deep impression they are calculated to produce. And is it to be supposed that your children will hear you wrestling with God on their behalf time after time, and that to all this they will be utterly insensible? Is the die that yields one impression incapable of producing more? "As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man;" and hence those who wish to impress the minds of others, do well when they ascertain and put in action the means that have affected their own. These remarks are equally applicable to your servant or servants. We hear much of the degeneracy of domestics in the present day; and how is the evil so often and so loudly deplored to be corrected? By their becoming the objects of tender and devout solicitude. "Men do not gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles." Nor shall we obtain kindness, truth, and fidelity from those who are allowed to advance in life with no dissuasives from sin, no incentives to holiness. In a funeral sermon for a pious lady lately deceased, the preacher says, "In perusing the 'Life and Writings of Mrs. Graham,' she was, on one occasion, very forcibly struck by a remark of the elder Dr. Mason, Mrs. Graham's pastor. In one of his visits, she mentioned to him the want of good servants as one of her great trials. Mrs. Graham, said he, have you ever prayed to the Lord to provide good servants for you? Nothing which interests our comfort is too minute for the care of our heavenly Father. Our good friend felt herself reproved; she resolved to follow the advice suggested; and she has often *frankly acknowledged*, that she never had so much reason *to be satisfied* with her servants, as since she had seriously

attended to the seasonable admonition." If advantage may be expected from praying for servants, much more may be anticipated from praying *with* them. "The curse of God is in the house of the wicked, but he blesseth the habitation of the just." "The voice of joy is in the tabernacles of the righteous," but Jehovah "pours out his fury on the families that call not upon his name." Duties are yours, results are God's. Should your sons be irreligious, your daughters disreputable, and your servants dissolute, how bitter will be the thought that you did nothing to prevent this guilt,—to avert this woe. But should all that devolves upon you be done, humbly, diligently, and prayerfully, and any case of gross delinquency appear, you will be spared the agonizing upbraidings of conscience, and the blood of the offenders will be on their own souls.

Family Devotion has the claim of Public Good.—Who is the patriot? The man who gives all diligence to make his calling and election sure, who unceasingly employs the best means for the promotion of his household's piety, and who devotes the *remainder* of his time and ability to plans of enlightened and expansive benevolence. Patriotism, like charity, though it ends not there, must begin at home. And if instead of men declaiming against the vices of others, they were to set about *self*-reformation, and the reformation of their families, the prospects which now prove empty and transient as a morning dream, would give place to what is actually good; and our country and the world would soon exhibit in reality the substantial beauties of a moral paradise. Of this, perhaps, some of the Islands of the Southern Ocean present, at this time, the most striking proof. There the many are the worshippers of God and the keepers of his commandments, and the few are the wicked and disobedient. But there the gospel has been preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, and this has awakened the interest of individuals for themselves and their connexions. The Rev. Mr. Nott, who has been in the Islands from the first landing of the Missionaries, recently said to the Rev. John Griffin, "As a confirmation of what you have heard, I may mention the universal practice of family worship. I will not say, that there is not a family in Taheite that has no family prayer; but I know of none, nor do I believe there is one!" O that *this could be said of the towns of Britain!*

And can ye who are the Heads of Families resist the force of these several and accumulated inducements? All the sophistry you can employ, I am assured, will be insufficient to persuade you that they are not important and momentous. Will you then continue to pursue a course which conscience condemns? I trust you will not. I hope you will at once commence the discharge of a duty so imperative,—the improvement of a privilege so valuable. Indulging this expectation, allow me to offer you a few hints in reference to the course now prescribed and enforced.

Never consider the devotions of the family as a substitute for those of retirement.—The command will be disobeyed at your peril. "Enter thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father who is in secret; and thy Father who seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." There you must seek that devotion of soul which shall give animation and delight to the services of the domestic altar, and without which they will be cold, profitless, and unacceptable.

Let these exercises be conducted twice a day.—"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High, to shew forth thy loving-kindness every *morning*, and thy faithfulness every *night*." On what principle can those justify their neglect who are thus occupied only once a day? How can you do without prayer in the morning? You know not what an hour may bring forth, what perplexities, and trials, and temptations, and sorrows await you. Without the guidance, support, protection, and blessing of God, you "may fall into hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition;" and "for all these things he will be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them." And how can you dispense with prayer in the evening? "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." For safety and repose you are dependant on the Father of mercies, and these it becomes you to implore, while you adore him for the favours of the day, and ask that you may lie down,

"Sprinkled afresh with pardoning blood."

Connect with family prayer the reading of the word of God, and if possible, the singing of a hymn.—A portion of Scripture is at such times of vast importance, nor can the Head of a family be considered as discharging his duty if *this be not introduced.* A hymn will be found peculiarly

cheering, and if melody be made in the heart to the Lord, there will be a delightful resemblance in the domestic band to the family of heaven.

Endeavour to be early in your evening sacrifices.—When Malachi reprehends the offering of the sick, and blind, and lame, he intimates, what the requirements of the Mosaic law distinctly set forth, that what we bring to the services of Jehovah should be in the best state; and hence a drowsy body and an enervated mind should be solicitously guarded against by every worshipper.

Regard brevity as important.—The minds of persons generally, and especially of children and servants, cannot bear long services; and where the shoulder is feeble, the burden should be light. The precept is divine, "Use not vain repetitions," and while this is always obligatory, it has peculiar force when others are concerned, and when tediousness will produce distaste, and even disgust.

Admit of no irregularity.—Suffer nothing to excuse omission. Every argument for this practice is a plea for its uninterrupted continuance. Should the master of the family be absent, let the mistress supply his place; and should both be from home, let an elder son or daughter be their representative. "But," says Mr. Jay, "a case of conscience occurs, and such, alas! as the inconsistencies of the present day would render too common. When should those of us have family worship, who attend public amusements; for instance—the theatre? I answer, By all means have it *before you go.* When you return it will be too late; and you may not feel yourselves quite so well affected towards it. We have known professors who always omitted it when they came home from the play-house. Besides, if you have it before, you can implore the divine blessing upon it; and beseech God to assist you in redeeming time, in overcoming the world, in preparing for eternity."

Reader! You may imagine the author has written this with a smile, but he has written it with shame and grief. He earnestly wishes that many would adopt Family Worship; but he is free to confess that there are some of whom he should be glad to hear that they had laid it aside.

Be it, above all, the concern of every worshipper to depend habitually on the aid of the Spirit of supplication.—The incense which will ascend with a sweet smelling savour

before God must be enkindled by fire from heaven. "We know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."—"And if a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish will he for a fish give him a serpent? or if he ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, *how much more* shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

It is a possible case that some head of a family may have proceeded thus far, and yet be meditating evasion, and racking his ingenuity to contrive a way by which tranquillity may be restored to his mind, in the neglect of these sacred engagements. If such be your case, permit me to tell you, that every objection you can raise may be easily shewn to be untenable. You cannot plead that your business will not allow the opportunity. Men, whose secular occupations are far more numerous than yours, regularly conduct the devotions of their families. "I have no time," is the reply of indolence and selfishness to a powerful appeal. A man of activity, and order, and self-denial, can find time for every thing that God has required. And if you could assert that your best efforts could not obtain enough for the purpose in your present circumstances, it is your duty to cut off so much of your business as would furnish the opportunity. What will it avail you to have died a few hundred pounds richer, if in hell you lift up your eyes being in torments, and your households load you with bitter reproaches as accessary to the damnation of their souls? "Better is a little that the righteous hath than great riches of the ungodly." "The love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." You cannot urge a want of ability. The plainest, simplest language is best adapted to prayer. The Scriptures contain a great variety of petitions which you may adopt as your own. But if there be an insuperable difficulty to the use of these, this collection of prayers will supply the deficiency. Extempore prayer is greatly superior on many accounts to forms, however good, but it is possible to be very spiritual in using the latter, and cold and hypocritical in the former. And equally vain is it to *aver that to begin* after so much neglect appears a task too

formidable for you. Your minister will cheerfully relieve you of this burden. There is not a faithful servant of Christ who would not gladly give you his aid, and thank God for having conferred on him the honour of rearing an altar in your dwelling to his name. The path then is clear. Commence it this very day. I cannot give you till to-morrow. Reject what is thus addressed to you in the name of Christ, and it will rise up in judgment against you. Receive it, and the blessing of the Lord shall be upon your tabernacle,—and this shall rejoice my heart, even mine.

THE

DOMESTIC GUIDE.

FIRST WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O God! Whither shall we go from thy Spirit, or whither shall we flee from thy presence? If we ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if we make our bed in hell, behold thou art there. If we take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thine hand lead us, and thy right hand shall hold us. If we say, Surely the darkness shall cover us, even the night shall be light about us; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. Enable us to approach thee with this conviction, assured that thou lookest not as man looketh, that thou regardest the heart, and triest the reins of the children of men. Humble us before thee in the recollection of our sins. While many acts of our lives have been, obviously,

criminal, and should make us penitent in thy sight, many which were outwardly fair were exceeding sinful before thee, O Lord, because they resulted from principles, and motives, and feelings that were evil. Surely our hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. O our God, we may well be ashamed and blush to lift up our faces to thee; for our iniquities have increased over our heads, and our trespass is grown up into the heavens. Pardon our iniquity, for it is great. Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. As thou desirest truth in the inward parts, in the hidden part do thou make us to know wisdom. Purify us wholly, body, soul, and spirit, that we may be vessels unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work; following righteousness, faith, charity, and peace; with them that call on the name of the Lord out of a pure heart. How shall we sufficiently adore thee for the assurance, that thy thoughts toward us are thoughts of peace, and not of evil! Of this we are persuaded from the continuance of life, and health, and strength, and the religious privileges with which we are favoured, and the return of the Sabbath, set apart for *thy service.* As this is the day which thou

hast made, may we rejoice and be glad in it. Many prophets, and kings, and righteous men, have desired to see the things which we see, and have not seen them, and to hear the things which we hear, and have not heard them. O Lord, open thou our lips, and our mouths shall shew forth thy praise. Spirit of light, and grace, and truth, prepare us for all the exercises in which we have to engage. Enlighten our minds to behold the great and glorious things contained in the law of God. Help our infirmities, for we know not how to pray as we ought; and enkindle in our bosoms a flame of gratitude, that we may offer acceptable thanksgivings. In the closet, and in the family, may God be with us; and when we go up to his house, may we prove that he loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. If any of this household know not the things that make for their peace, let them consider them now, lest they be hid from their eyes for ever. Cause thy truth to come to their hearts, not in word only, but in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance. And, if it please thee, ere this day shall close, may we all be disposed to exclaim: O Lord our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us; but by thee only will we make mention of thy *name*. If any of us have tasted

that the Lord is gracious, as new-born babes, may we desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow thereby. Now let the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. That these may be the blessed results of waiting on God, may all his ministers be clothed with righteousness; and especially may every aid be afforded to him from whose lips we are again to hear all the words of this life. Let his doctrine drop as the rain, and distil as the dew, as the small rain on the tender herb, and as showers that water the earth.

May the congregations of the faithful receive increase of grace to hear meekly thy word, to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. And may those who are detained from the holy mountain of the Lord, find that He is not confined to temples made with hands, but that in the place of retirement, and on the couch of sickness, he can command the richest of his blessings to descend. Thou, O Lord, hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hast determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; send them, we entreat thee, the glad tidings, that thou hast so loved this world, as to give thine only be-

gotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him might not perish, but have everlasting life.

Soon may they all possess the Scriptures, and the sanctuary, and the Sabbath; and with the multitude which no man can number that shall at last be gathered together from the four winds of heaven, may we join in the song, Salvation to Him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever. *Amen.*

SUNDAY EVENING.

AGAIN we lift up our eyes unto thee, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens. Another Sabbath has added to the long catalogue of thy mercies, and to that of our sins. Accept what is thine own; and pardon what is ours. Cleanse all our offerings in that fountain which is opened for sin and for uncleanness; and incline us for the future to suitable diligence, and watchfulness, and dependence. Inspire us, O God, with an increasing concern to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. As the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; may we feel

that escape is impossible with us, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness with signs and wonders, and divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost. We trust that in the exercises of this day some salutary impressions have been produced. May the Spirit of the living God give them depth, and permanency, and power. Never, never say to us, What shall I do unto thee? Thy goodness is as the morning cloud, and as the early dew which goeth away. That we may know, may we follow on to know the Lord. May his going forth be prepared as the morning; may he come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth. Into the engagements of life, may we carry the truths to which we have attended. If the Saviour of sinners has appeared the fairest among ten thousand, the altogether lovely, may it be our solicitude more highly to value him, more faithfully to serve him. If the evil of sin has been more apparent, let it excite holy grief, and indignation, and abhorrence; and a concern to abstain from its reality, as well as from its appearance. If the devices of Satan have been more fully exposed, let a knowledge of his subtilties *induce us to* watch and pray, lest we enter

into temptation. If the vanity of earth has affected our hearts, may we henceforth declare plainly that we are seeking another and a better country; and that we expect solid and lasting happiness alone, when we have entered the rest which remaineth for the people of God. And, if some beams of heavenly glory have burst upon our minds, grant that our affections may be set on things above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God.—Thus, may we derive advantage from the instructions of thine house, and make our profiting appear unto all. Affect our hearts, O God, with the importance of religion, not only personally, but relatively. In blessing us, make us blessings to others. Number us with those who are the salt of the earth, to preserve it from corruption; with those who are the lights of the world, scattering around the rays of truth and holiness. Enable us in doing this, to appeal powerfully to the eye, rather than to the ear. May our conduct be more eloquent than our tongues. Embodying whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, let us adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things; and attract others to his word, his cross, and his *throne*. *We rejoice* that thousands have

listened this day to the truth as it is in Jesus. Place the seal of heaven, we beseech thee, on the labours of all thy faithful servants. Though success is not necessary to prove the validity of their ministry, let them behold some fruit of their toil, to console them amidst their sorrows, and to encourage their future efforts. Instead of its being doubtful who has believed their report, and to whom the arm of the Lord has been revealed; may they say, Now thanks be to God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ; and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us, in every place. While in some parts the word of the Lord has free course, runs, and is glorified, O comfort the waste places of Zion. Make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert as the garden of the Lord. And as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so cause, we pray thee, righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. Regard us as a family; though we are about to separate, thou wilt not be far from any one of us. Thou keeper of Israel, thou never slumberest nor sleepest, but we need repose. Afford us that which thou givest to thy beloved, and with recreated bodies and minds, may we assemble in the morning around thine altar, through the mediation of Jesus Christ

our Lord; whose merits we now place before thee as the only ground of our hopes of acceptance; and to whom with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

MONDAY MORNING.

O THOU God of mercy and of truth, in the protection and repose we have enjoyed, we have proved again thy faithfulness; and we would remember that the partakers of favours should become the offerers of praise. Enable us, individually, to exclaim, Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies. And O forbid that we should ever be satisfied with verbal acknowledgment; but let our sense of obligation be exhibited in obedience to all the requirements of thy will. To this end, graciously fulfil thine ancient promise. Sprinkle clean water upon us, and we shall be clean; from all our filthiness, and from all our idols do thou

cleanse us. Take away the stony heart out of our flesh, and give us a heart of flesh; and put thy spirit within us, and cause us to walk in thy statutes, and to keep thy judgments, and do them. Impute to us the merits of the Redeemer, that we may be justified in thy sight; and impart to us the influences of the Holy Spirit; that we may be new creatures in Christ Jesus. Suffer us never to suppose that we are interested in him, while we continue in sin; but may we look for the evidence that we are his, to our loving righteousness and hating iniquity. May acceptance through his mediation be connected in our minds with resemblance to his image; remembering that he came, not to save us *in* our sins, but *from* our sins. We would not merely ask these blessings, but ardently would we desire them, fervently would we implore them. Let us participate them richly and freely. If any good thing be found in our bosoms towards the Lord God of Israel, let it be strengthened, and produce in far greater abundance the fruit of righteousness and peace. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Instead of being dead in trespasses and sins, *and lulled* by the tempter into awful insensi-

bility, may we feel that there is a warfare within; that corruption is weakened and destroyed by the power of divine grace; and that the spirit ever triumphs over the flesh. As we advance in life, may the evidence that we have a title to a mansion above, be made more clear and satisfactory, by our increasing meetness for it. As things temporal retire, and things eternal approach, may our spirits bear a character more heavenly; may our purposes be more vigorous and determined; may our zeal burn more steadily and brightly; may our devotion soar wherever thy word commands its flight; may our love put forth the maturity of its power; and may we have at last only to close our eyes on this state of sin, and sorrow, and death, and open them on another of purity, and bliss everlasting.

Hearken to our petitions, O thou that hearest prayer, when we intercede for others. Have pity on the ignorant, and those who are out of the way. Compassionate those who mourn for sin. Save such as are of a contrite spirit. Though heaviness endure for a night, yet, as they sow in tears, may they reap in joy. Reclaim the wanderers. Shouldst thou visit their offences with the rod, and their iniquity with scourges, take not thy loving-kindness utterly away, nor suffer thy truth to fail. Sympathize with all the sons

and daughters of affliction; thou knowest their frame, thou rememberest that they are dust; give them the support and consolation they need; and, under thy blessing, may their trials be numbered amongst their greatest benefits. Grace, mercy, and peace, be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. We would not cease to pray that they may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing; being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness. Enable them, O Father, to give thanks unto thee, who hast delivered them from the power of darkness, and hast translated them into the kingdom of thy dear Son.—And now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages. *Amen.*

MONDAY EVENING.

THE heavens declare thy glory, O God, the firmament sheweth thy handy work; day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. Every returning

morning and evening brings before us the power, the wisdom, and the goodness of the Most High, the Creator and Preserver of all things. Amazed would we be, that unworthy as we are, we are still the objects of the divine care. And at this time we would raise our grateful thanksgivings, through his mediation, with whom thou art always well pleased, making mention of his righteousness, and of his only. We adore thee, O Lord, for such a medium, and confess that we have no other trust. So far from looking to ourselves for acceptance, we are constrained to say, It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, and because his compassions fail not. Hadst thou remembered us according to our sins, or visited us according to our iniquities, we should have been, at this moment, victims of wrath, instead of monuments of grace; spirits in perdition, instead of prisoners of hope. Guilt has been accumulated not only by one act, but by our whole course; never have we served thee aright, and often God has not been in all our thoughts. Pursuing temporal good, we have trusted in man, and have made flesh our arm, and have persisted in doing this, though we have been justly left as the heath in the desert, as a beacon on the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on a hill. Equally perverse have we been in reference

to spiritual blessings. We have neglected a plan of salvation which angels desire to look into. We have turned from Jesus, who is exalted as a Prince and a Saviour. We have been wilfully ignorant of God's righteousness, and have gone about to establish one of our own. We have said we are rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and have not known that we were poor, and naked, and wretched, and blind, and miserable.—O! enable us to magnify thy name that for all this there is mercy, and that with thee is plenteous redemption. O Lord, our God, who is like unto thee? Our lives proclaim that thou art merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. As much is given us, may we not forget that much will be required. Henceforth may we cleave unto the Lord. Implant thy fear in our hearts, that we may not depart from thee. Give us grace to present to thee our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service. Let our path be as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Lead us into all truth, and establish our hearts in grace. Complete that which is lacking in our faith, that it may be not only vital, but powerfully operative. Store our minds with objects that are *spiritual* and eternal, that those which are

merely seen and temporal, may have no settled place. May all the affecting motives of the Gospel be near, and may we live in the habitual contemplation of a God in judgment and a world on fire.

And now regard this household through another season of helplessness and danger. May all its members be the charge of our God. Tenderly remember those whom we love. Afford thy benediction to all the families of Israel. Favour the churches of the faithful, however denominated among men. Let all who dispense the truth, both by their preaching and living, set it forth, and shew it accordingly. Soon let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, and the just be established, and all the people of the earth be righteous. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty, for all that is in the heaven and the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. O enable us to thank thee, and to praise thy glorious name for ever and ever. *Amen.*

TUESDAY MORNING.

HEARKEN unto the voice of our cry, our King, and our God, for unto thee will we pray. Our voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord, in the morning will we direct our prayer unto thee, and will look up. Thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness, neither shall evil dwell with thee, but thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous, with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield. We are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies, but we would pray for the greatest. O let us be set apart with the godly for thyself. Be thou the portion of our souls, and let us hope in thee. Justify us freely by thy grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. May he be made unto us wisdom, that we may know him, whom to know is life eternal; righteousness, that we may stand with acceptance before thee; sanctification, that we may be the temples of the living God; and redemption, that we may be freed from the curse of the law and the bondage of the grave. We would acknowledge with shame our proneness to forget our souls in providing for the body; eternity, in the pursuits of time; and a Saviour, in our intercourse with sinners. *Arouse us,* O Holy Spirit. Let the voice of

God be heard saying, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. Suffer us not to sink into remediless woe. Snatch us as brands from the burning. Save us with an everlasting salvation. Take to thyself great glory in bearing us to heaven from the dark door of hell. We would adore thee, O Lord, if we have any proof that we have passed from death unto life. Thou hadst not done so much for us, hadst thou enabled us to prophesy, or to work miracles in thy name. O what manner of love hath the Father bestowed on us, if we are called the sons of God! And yet how little have we done for thee! Often hast thou come seeking fruit, but though there may have been the leaves of profession, and the buds of promise, we have not produced in rich abundance the fruit of the Spirit. Revive thy work in the midst of the years. Quicken thou us according to thy word. Keep the truths of thy gospel ever in the imagination of the hearts of thy people, and let us adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. May we add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. O let these things be in us, and abound, that

we may neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. With affections weaned from the world, and with evidences bright for heaven, may we wait all our appointed days, till our change comes; may we die supported by the consolations of thy gospel, and enter thy presence where are the fulness of joy, and pleasures for evermore. Forbid, we beseech thee, O God, that the connexions subsisting through life should be broken in death. O that thou wouldest bless this family indeed, that thine hand may be with us, that thou wouldst keep us from evil that it may not grieve us! Let us be fellow-heirs of the grace of life. Number all our relations, and friends, and acquaintance, with thy saints in glory everlasting;—thus shall we be separated only for a moment, to be re-united for ever.

We present these our adorations, confessions, thanksgivings, and prayers, not in our own name, but in that of the only Redeemer, to whom, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, we unite in ascriptions of equal and immortal praise. *Amen.*

TUESDAY EVENING.

O THOU who art of purer eyes than to look upon sin; the wicked shall not stand in thy sight, thou hatest all the workers of iniquity. Alas! for us, for we are undone! Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of Hosts, while we are altogether unclean, and dwell among men of unclean lips. Enable us, O God, by the aid of the Spirit of grace, to look on him whom we have pierced, and to mourn for him as one mourneth for his only son, and to be in bitterness for him as one that is in bitterness for his first-born. No humility can be proportioned to our fall, no expressions of penitence can be adequate to our guilt. Thou didst create man in thine own likeness, but we have lost that lovely image. Thou art our Sovereign, but we have violated thy commands, and lived as if we were at our own disposal. Thou hast exercised towards us love infinitely transcending that of an earthly parent, though the fondest of fathers; but our carnal minds have been at enmity with God. We have been formed by thy power capable of deriving the highest enjoyment from thy presence and favour, but we have forsaken the fountain of living waters, and hewn out unto ourselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can

hold no water. We have been but little affected by thine unspeakable gift, and have not only made light of the plenitude of grace, but have even abused the gifts of thy providence.

Enter not into judgment with thy servants, O Lord, for in thy sight shall no flesh living be justified. Deal not with us according to our sins, but, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Where sin has abounded, O let grace much more abound.—And while we thus seek forgiveness, we would implore purity; while we would surrender our souls to Christ as the Redeemer, we would give them to the care of the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier. O impart to us a divine nature, and make us partakers of thy holiness. Shed abroad the love of Christ in our hearts. Control the current of our thoughts, and feelings. Keep us from every thing in word and deed that would provoke thy displeasure, or grieve the Spirit of grace. Quicken us in all our duties, whether personal or relative, secular or sacred. Let us be found among the chosen generation, the royal priesthood, the holy nation, the peculiar people; that we may shew forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. Help us to pass through things which are fleeting, so

as not to lose those that are enduring; to be strangers in this world, and pilgrims to another. Unto the Lord our God belong the issues from death, and He that is our God is the God of salvation. We bless thee, this evening, O thou preserver of men. Another day has been added to the season of thy long-suffering, and our opportunities of preparation for eternity. We would lament that the end of our existence is so imperfectly answered, and that in all things we offend, and come short of thy glory. The review of a single day is enough to plunge us into despondency; our only hope of the forgiveness of recent sins is in Christ, to whose blood we must look for the pardon of the past, and on whose grace we must depend for deliverance from future evil. And now may we lay ourselves down to sleep in peace, and do thou, Lord, make us to dwell in safety. May this house be the tabernacle of the righteous. Ever fill it with the voice of rejoicing and praise. May those who are placed at the head of the family discharge their duty to the beloved objects of their care; and may they remember our claims upon them. In our several relations may we walk by the rule of thy word, and prove, how good and pleasant a thing it is to dwell together in unity and love.

O *Lord, hear!* O Lord, forgive! O Lord,

hearken and do! defer not for thine own sake, O our God, so will we praise and magnify thy name, through the great and glorious Mediator. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it; thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water; thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly, thou settlest the furrows thereof, thou makest it soft with showers, thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness. Enable us to take up the holy resolution, We will bless thee O God at all times, thy praise shall ever be in our mouths; we will magnify thee with the voice of thanksgiving, and bless thy sacred name together. Heighten thy goodness in our estimation, by convincing us of our utter unworthiness. Nothing more could have been done for us than has been done; and yet, so far have we fallen from original righteousness, that the depravity of our nature has constantly

appeared in the disobedience and rebellion of our lives. How early did we discover tendencies to pride, and anger, and envy, and discontent! O remember not against us the sins of our youth. Nor let the multiplied transgressions of riper years come into remembrance—our misimproved time and talents, our wasted and perverted seasons of religious advantage, and our neglect of the Redeemer of men. Pity us, O pity us; let the good hand of the Lord still be upon us, and never may we feel the value of his favours, from their judicial, though deserved removal! So often as our necessities return, may we welcome the bestowments of our Father and our God. And, we pray thee, to give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we may shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. For this, may we be thy workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which thou hast before ordained that we should walk in them. Let Jesus dwell in our hearts by faith, that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, and to know the height and depth, and length and breadth of that love which passeth know-

ledge; that we may be filled with all the fulness of God. Aware of our danger, may we watch; sensible of our weakness, may we trust on the arm of Omnipotence; and persuaded that for all things thou wilt be inquired of by the house of Israel, may we continue instant in prayer. Give us grace this day to keep our hearts with all diligence, knowing that out of them are the issues of life. Hold thou us up, and we shall be safe. Impress on our minds the truth, that retirement from the world will prepare us for intercourse with God, and communion with God will prepare us for intercourse with the world. While diligent in business, may we be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. While we labour for the meat that perisheth, may we labour for that which endureth unto everlasting life. While our bodies await thy command to return unto the dust from whence they came, may our treasure be in heaven, and our hearts be there also. And, as a promise is left us of entering into that rest, O let us fear, lest we should seem to come short of it. Forbid that it should be said to us, Ye did run well, who hath hindered you? Enable us, we beseech thee, individually to exclaim, I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus; I count not myself to have

apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. And when the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll, and the earth be removed out of its place, may we lift up our heads with joy, trusting in that glorious Redeemer, whose promises are now our stay; to whom be ascribed all glory, honour, and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

THOU art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in thee, they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered; they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. Millions have returned from thy footstool, acknowledging with gratitude and joy that the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him,—that he giveth to every one liberally, and upbraideth not. We would feel it at this time our duty and privilege to reiterate their tribute. Of thy favours, undeserving as we are, we have richly and largely

participated. Not more than others we deserve, but God has given us more. While the eyes of all wait on thee, thou hast granted us our food in its season. Though on others calamities have fallen, we have not been overwhelmed by distress. We have been surrounded by perils, but thou, who hast preserved us from the terror by night, hast shielded us also from the arrow that flieth by day. O Lord, continue to be our refuge. Be thou, O Most High, our habitation. Cover us with thy feathers, under thy wings may we trust, and let thy truth be our shield and buckler. Give thine angels charge over us, to keep us in all our ways. Let us tread upon the lion and adder, the young lion and the dragon let us trample under feet. We would call to mind that these are the peculiar blessings of thy people, and therefore we pray that we may be found among those who have the Lord for their God. Grant us individually grace to say, I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Afford us, if it please thee, a scriptural, satisfactory, and animating evidence, of our interest in Christ; or should this be denied, may we still hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Raise us above the world. As we dreaded not its frowns when in the ways of sin, let us not fear them in the paths of duty. May it ever be a light thing with us to be judged of man's judgment, but let our rejoicing be this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity, and godly sincerity, and by the grace of God, we have had our conversation among men. Increase, we pray thee, O God, our humility, and let penitence be more sincere and influential. In many things we have offended, and in all come short of thy glory. How little good can others trace to us! How much injury may some have sustained from the strength of our corruptions, and the inconsistencies of our conduct! May our relative influence as well as our personal happiness and security urge us to seek prosperity of soul. As the eyes of the Lord are upon all the ways of the sons of men, to give unto every man according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings, make it our concern to bring forth much fruit, that our heavenly Father may be glorified; and that we may shine as the brightness of the firmament for ever and ever. We beseech thee, O God, to bestow similar and all needful blessings on our relations, our countrymen, and the whole family of man. Console the distressed, support the afflicted,

guide the perplexed, relieve the poor, succour the tempted, and redeem the lost. Mercifully accept these our prayers, and pour out the blessings we have failed to supplicate. And for all the good things we have received, or hope for from thy bountiful hands, enable us to render our grateful thanks, and let it be our employment, now, henceforth, and for ever, abundantly to utter the memory of thy goodness, and to sing of thy praise. *Amen* and *Amen.*

THURSDAY MORNING.

WE would come and worship, and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for thou art the Lord our God, and we are the sheep of thy pasture, and the workmanship of thy hands. We are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made. Thine eyes did see our substance yet being unperfect, and in thy book all our members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. We would adore thee at this time, O God, not only as our Creator, but as our Preserver. A few hours ago we committed each other to thy protection and care, and thou hast saved us from peril, and endued us with strength. And yet

many are destitute of our advantages. Some have been exclaiming, Wearisome nights are appointed unto us, when shall we see the morning light? How many wretched souls have fled since the last setting sun! Others have awakened to circumstances of unexpected solicitude and sorrow. How great is thy loving kindness to us, O God! Help us to put our trust under the shadow of thy wings. For thy name's sake, be gracious to us still. Never leave us, never, never forsake us. If we have much, may we enjoy thee in all; if we have little, may we enjoy all in thee. Whatever we have do thou bless, whatever we need do thou bestow, and whatever is injurious to our best interests do thou remove. We are now, and we shall be while we are in this tabernacle, spiritually necessitous. But how can we sufficiently praise thee for the glorious gospel of the blessed God? Here we find, lost as we are, that there is a great salvation; weak as we are, that there is help laid on One who is mighty; poor as we are, that unsearchable riches are treasured up in Christ; and, though we have nothing, that in him we may have all things. O give us grace to look to Him, that we may have redemption through his blood! Suffer us not to defer the pursuit of his righteousness. Convince us that we must be saved now or

never; that we must be saved in this world, or we cannot be saved in the next; that we must be saved from sin, or we cannot be saved from hell. That the future blessings of the righteous may be ours, dispose us to seek their present advantages. Influence us by thy Holy Spirit to obey the exhortation, To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. May we watch unto prayer—guard against unholy thoughts—repress the first risings of corruption—and remember our vows; tracing all that is good to thee, and all that is evil to ourselves. Girding up the loins of our minds, may we be sober and hope to the end, for the grace that is to be brought unto us, at the revelation of Jesus Christ. In prospect of the last messenger's arrival may we say, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, and henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge shall give me at that day, and not unto me only, but unto all them that love his appearing. While we exclaim, God be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us, we would add, Let thy way be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God, yea, let all the people praise thee; then shall the earth

yield her increase, and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing. And all we ask is through the mediation of Him who bore our sins, and carried our sorrows; to whom with the Father, and the Spirit of grace, be endless praises. *Amen.*

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD, who is like unto thee! Thou art the blessed, and only Potentate, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen, nor can see. We rejoice that though thou art thus exalted far above all blessing and praise, thou hast respect unto the lowly, and even hast pleasure in them that fear thee, in them that hope in thy mercy. Were it not for the assurance that thy compassion is boundless, we must sink into despondency and despair. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, thou, O Lord, art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Enable us often to engage in this important exercise, and not only to acknowledge but

also to bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. May we earnestly repent, and be heartily sorry for these our misdoings, may the remembrance of them be grievous unto us, and the burden of them be intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life. Alas! for us, we are prone to forget the things that make for our peace. Stir up our minds by way of remembrance. Let all the means we have of spiritual good, be in constant exercise, beneath the effectual blessing of our God. Make our consciences faithful to their trust, and us attentive to their monitions. May we regard the work of the Lord, and consider the operation of his hands. Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom. Inspire us with that devotion which habitually operates, which will make it our delight to pour forth the whole soul before thee, and, when this is not permitted, to waft fervent and holy ejaculations to thy throne. Supply us every day, every hour, every moment, with

the influences of the ever-blessed Spirit. Without his aid we are weaker than worms, with him we are but a little lower than the angels. Take charge, we entreat thee, of our temporal circumstances, O thou that clothest the lilies of the field, and feedest the fowls of the air, and hearest the young ravens that cry. Two things only we require of thee: Remove far from us vanity and lies; give us neither poverty nor riches; feed us with food convenient for us; lest we be full and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or, lest we be poor, and steal, and take the name of our God in vain. O send us nothing that thou wilt not bless, and take nothing from us in thy displeasure. Suffer us never to imagine that this is our rest, and guard us against the evils of wishing to depart before all the fruit thou requirest is brought forth, or wishing to stay when the Master calls us. May a knowledge of thy will be enough to induce entire submission, and to ensure prompt and cheerful obedience. O give to every individual before thee the holy and happy state of mind which shall allow the declaration, Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty; neither do I exercise myself in great matters, nor in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself as a child that is weaned from its mother; my soul is even as

a weaned child. O Lord, thou demandest our tribute for the mercies of this day, enable us with sincere and ardent gratitude to present it at thy feet. Accept our offerings through the beloved, who, while we are undeserving, is worthy to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Indulge us now, we pray thee, with refreshing sleep; or, if this be denied, may our souls be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and our mouths shall praise thee with joyful lips, when we remember thee on our bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. In the morning may we arise beneath the smiles of thy countenance; and to the triune Jehovah be ascribed majesty and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FRIDAY MORNING.

EVER-LIVING God! We would abandon every earthly hope, and look to thee. The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not. They have ears, but they hear not; noses have they, but they smell not. They have hands, but they handle not; feet have they, but they

walk not. But in thee, O Lord, is every perfection; all thine attributes are engaged in behalf of thy people, and from thee cometh every good gift and every perfect gift. And yet, in a land called Christian, we have been chargeable with awful idolatry. How often have ignorance, self-righteousness, sensuality, and unbelief, gained, and kept the ascendancy in our hearts! O let it be so no more! Take from us all iniquity, so will we render the calves of our lips. Make the weapons which are not carnal, mighty through thee to the pulling down of strong holds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Thy command is as gracious as it is just, that we love thee with all our heart and mind, and soul and strength; enable us, we pray thee, to comply with the charge. Sanctify our affections, and set them on things that are above. where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. From a state of feeling thus purified may there arise the charity that suffereth long, and is kind; that vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up; doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all *things*. We trust we feel, and we

would do so increasingly, our own weakness. In us, that is in our flesh, there dwelleth no good thing, and we can serve thee only by the aid of thy grace. May the past suffice to have trusted in man and made flesh our arm, and henceforth may we be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. O thou who dost not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax, thou Shepherd of Israel, who gatherest the lambs with thine arm, and carriest them in thy bosom, and gently leadest those that are with young,—let thy rod and staff comfort us; and as our days so may our strength be. Encourage us, O God, by the thought that though this is a changing scene, and we are exposed to vicissitudes, in thee is no variableness, neither the shadow of turning. Convince us that what men call chance is thy providence, and that every event occurs by thy appointment, or permission. Wherever we trace thy hand may we be persuaded of its guidance by unerring wisdom and boundless love, and cheerfully say, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. May we feel that what is pleasing is not always good, and that what is painful may tend to our advantage; and thus be preserved from charging God foolishly, and from the guilt of ingratitude, worldly-mindedness, and presumption. Teach us that while many things are flattering,

and some are desirable, one thing is needful; and that this not only makes provision for eternity, but secures our interests in time. Let godliness, which is profitable to all things, be ours, that we may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom may we shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. We would not travel to the skies alone. Make those who are dear to us dear to thee. Dispose men to employ their talents to thy glory and praise. Supply the temporal wants of the poor, and make them rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom of heaven. May sin, which is the reproach of any people, be diminished and removed, and the righteousness which exalteth a nation be great and prevail. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

FRIDAY EVENING.

GIVE ear, O Lord, to our cry, and listen to the voice of our supplications. Aid us, we humbly beseech thee, in our evening exercise,

for to pray and praise aright is not by might, nor by power, but by thy Spirit, O thou God of Hosts. We rejoice that with thee there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, the high and the low, the learned and the ignorant; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. All our springs have been, and are in thee. From the first moment of our lives we were cast on thy care. And as we have been supplied by thy hand, defended by thine arm, and guided by thine eye, we pray that we all may become, not merely the pensioners on thy bounty, but the monuments of thy grace. O let what we receive in answer to prayer be returned to thee in praise, and let the favours that fall upon us unsolicited, awaken grateful feelings, and inspire implicit confidence. We would bless thee, O our Father, that through thy tender mercy the day spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to us who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Suffer us not to be satisfied with the truth beaming on our path, but do thou who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Impart to us the spirit of revelation in the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of

our understanding may be enlightened; that we may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints; and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to those who believe. O grant each of us thy grace to translate us into the kingdom of thy dear Son, and to make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. As we advance in years, may we increase in resemblance to those who have gone before us, who have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. May Jesus be more precious to our souls, and more faithfully imitated as our great example. May the commandments of God be more promptly obeyed, and his will more fully become ours. May we discover less of unsanctified feeling, and produce more of the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. May earth exert less power over us, and heaven put forth an irresistible attraction. Incline us, O God, to sympathize with those who suffer adversity, as being ourselves also in the body. Teach us to devise liberal things, and freely to give of what we have; if we have received much to offer much, and if little, may we remember that where there is first a willing mind it is

accepted according to what a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. Impress on our hearts, as an important principle of action, that the souls of men should be preferred before their bodies in estimation and intention, but that in point of time the body is often to be preferred to the soul, because if the body be suffered to perish, the helping of the soul will be past our power. Whatever we do, may we do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men; and at last may we obtain the plaudit which we would prefer to all others,—They have done what they could.

And now, indulgent Parent, adoring thy great and glorious name, pleading for the pardon of our manifold iniquities, and supplicating all thou seest we need; we humbly commend ourselves and all who belong to us, to the care of thy kind providence. O thou that savest by thy right hand them who put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them, keep us as the apple of thine eye, hide us under the shadow of thy wings. Sinful and helpless as we are, we are encouraged to implore thy protection through the hours of darkness. May we lie down in peace and take our rest. Make us to dwell safely, and to be quiet from fear of evil. *Keep us mindful*, O Lord, at the close of

every day, that the end of all things is at hand; that we may be sober, and watch unto prayer. May our first days pour no reproach on our last, but at thy bidding may we cheerfully shut our eyes on all things here, persuaded that though to live is Christ, to die is gain. So we thy people, and the sheep of thy pasture, will give thee thanks for ever; we will shew forth thy praise throughout all generations. *Amen.*

SATURDAY MORNING.

WE would unite in devout adoration to thee, O Lord, as the God of Providence. Thou doest according to thine own will, in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; none can stay thy hand or say unto thee, What doest thou? We look around, and behold thee establishing kingdoms and making them instruments of accomplishing thy purposes; extending thy paternal care to individuals, for it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps; providing for the fowls of the air which have neither storehouse nor barn, and suffering not the least of thy creatures to be forgotten; for *thou art good to all*, and thy tender mercies

are over all thy works. O God, the source of good, open thou our lips and our mouths shall shew forth thy praise. Again we have rested, and are refreshed; while some have been tossed to and fro to the dawning of the day. We have a safe and quiet habitation, while some have not where to lay their heads. We own thy goodness to us, and would desire to bless and magnify thy name. To the suitable acknowledgment of temporal favours we feel inadequate, how then shall we give thanks unto God for his unspeakable gift? Scarcely for a righteous man would one die, peradventure for a good man one would even dare to die; but thou hast commended thy love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. We bless thee that while his death is an atonement for sin, he rose again for our justification, and brought in an everlasting righteousness. Glory be to God in the highest for peace on earth and good-will to men. Inspire us with a concern, O Lord, we humbly entreat thee, to embrace the gospel of the kingdom, that we may realize all the blessings it reveals, and not only hear that there is a Saviour, but exclaim in the language of holy appropriation, This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O ye daughters of Jerusalem. Ever let thoughts of Christ and things divine occupy our minds,

and may his love constrain us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; and that he died for all, that they who live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them, and rose again. Write thy law on the fleshly tables of our hearts, that we may not depart from thee. With a deep, abiding, and operative sense of eternal realities may we now go forth to our several duties to the evening. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Ever may we distinguish between claims that are human, and those that are divine. While we render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, may we render unto God the things that are God's. Save us, O Lord, from a worldly mind; from covetousness which is idolatry before thee, and from that undue anxiety as to the affairs of this life, against which thou hast mercifully warned us. Give us grace to take heed to ourselves, and to beware, lest, at any time, our hearts be overcharged with the cares of the present life, and we fall into temptation, and a snare, and into those foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. Honour us, by making us the instruments of *promoting the* welfare of others. Consecrate,

O Lord, all our talents to thy service. Especially may our solicitude and efforts be available with regard to our various connexions. May those who are dear to us in the bonds of nature be born again, not of water, but of thy Spirit; and may our friends prove that they sustain the same relation to Him who loveth at all times, by cheerfully doing whatsoever he has commanded. Let the rising generation be a seed to serve thee, and be kept by thy word from the paths of the destroyer. Remember those who are descending into the vale of years. Cast them not off in the time of old age, forsake them not when their strength faileth.

We call to remembrance, O Lord, our own unworthiness,—we have forfeited all claim to thy favour. O look on our Shield, and on the face of thine Anointed, and for the sake of Jesus, our Advocate with the Father, accept and bless us, now and for ever. *Amen.*

SATURDAY EVENING.

LORD, thou hast been the dwelling place of thy people in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou *hadst formed* the earth and the world, even

from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. But all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. Impress this truth on our minds, we pray thee, at the close of another week. Its hours are gone to appear before God,—are gone to return no more. As we look back, we feel there is cause for deep humility, and shame. How much has been discoverable of what is evil; how little of what is good! And if our view produces this conviction, what must we be in thine, O thou Searcher of hearts, before whom the heavens are not clean, and the angels are chargeable with folly! It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, and because his compassions fail not. Surely as far as the heavens are above the earth, so far are thy ways, O God, higher than our ways, and thy thoughts than our thoughts. With whatever hopes others delude themselves of acceptance with thee for their own sakes, we trust that we have none. If ever we are saved, it cannot be by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to thy mercy, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, *which is shed on* us abundantly through

Jesus Christ our Saviour. The desire of our souls is therefore towards thee, the remembrance of thy name, and the cross on which he was lifted up. To thee we now call, and on thee we will depend till thou visit us with the choicest of thy favours. O remember not against us our former iniquities, enter not into judgment with us according to our deserts, but according to thy great goodness,—thy sovereign grace, regard us, O Lord. Blot out as a cloud our transgressions, and as a thick cloud our sins. Justify us freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. May the very God of peace sanctify us wholly, and, we pray God, our whole spirit, and soul, and body, may be preserved blameless, unto his glorious appearance. At this time, we would mingle thanksgivings with confessions and prayers. It becomes us to raise a fresh memorial, and inscribe it to the God of our salvation, Hitherto the Lord hath helped us. Thou, O our Father, hast holden our souls in life, and hast not suffered our feet to be moved. Thou hast watched over us with more than paternal, or even maternal love. Thine have been all the supplies that have nourished us, the comforts that have indulged us, the blessings that have enriched us. To thee we owe the Scriptures, which are written *with the finger* of God, the family altar, with

its privileges and duties, and the opportunities we have had for holy communion with Him who seeth in secret.

And O how great a mercy it is that thou art not yet weary of us! We are about to sink into the helplessness of the image of death, but we may pray that over us thou wouldst cast the mantle of thy protection. And to-morrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath of the Lord. As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so may our souls pant after thee, O God! That we may participate all its blessings, pour out upon us now the influences of thy Holy Spirit, and let our worldly thoughts, and solicitudes, and trials, cease to operate. As we have reached the limit of human effort, and as anxiety will avail us nothing, and even seriously injure us, may we cast our burden on the Lord, assured that he will sustain us. Be thou, O God, the portion of our souls, and let us hope in thee.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to fit all for thy service who enjoy the privileges of this highly favoured land, for the preparation of the heart in man and the answer of the tongue are alike from God. O let thy ministers stand in thy counsel, and cause the people to hear thy words, that they may turn them from their evil way, and from the evil of *their doings.*

And blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things; and blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. *Amen* and *Amen.*

SECOND WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

THE grave cannot praise thee, O Lord, death cannot celebrate thee; they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as we do this day. We would call to mind the necessities of which we were conscious when we retired to rest, and gratefully would we adore the loving kindness which has supplied them. We thank thee, O our Father, for any measure of health and strength of body, for the preservation of our mental powers, and for all our personal, and domestic, and social blessings. O let every gift lead us to the Giver; and awaken our ardent gratitude. *Thanks be to* God that opportunities of thanks-

giving, are frequent, and that again and again we are permitted to approach the mercy-seat. We trust we appreciate the privilege of these sacred moments, and we would anticipate those that await us with unspeakable delight. How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! May our souls long for the courts of the Lord, may our hearts and our flesh cry out for the living God. Of old it was said, the sparrow hath found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, our King and our God;—may the spot which was their abode be ours. One thing may we desire of the Lord, and that may we seek after, that we may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. Wherever thy name is recorded, do thou afford thy presence and blessing. As in various places the sower is going forth to sow the good seed of the kingdom, grant that it may fall, not by the way-side, or on stony ground, or among thorns, but into good ground; that it may spring up, and bring forth fruit, in some thirty, in others sixty, and in some a hundred fold. Gracious Redeemer, be as the dew unto Israel; may he grow as the lily, and cast forth his *roots as Lebanon*. May his branches

spread, and his beauty be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. Let those that dwell under his shadow return, let them revive as the corn, and grow as the vine, and let the scent thereof be as the wine of Lebanon. And may there be this day joy in the presence of the angels of God over sinners repenting, and turning to Him from whom they have so deeply and grievously revolted. Strengthen, we beseech thee, O Lord, all thy ministers, for the discharge of the functions of their responsible office. Forbid that their trumpet should give an uncertain sound. Guide them by the dictates of unerring wisdom, that the secrets of the hearts of men may be made manifest, that so falling down they may worship God, and report that he is in them of a truth. O that we and all whom we love may live before thee! Number us with the poor in spirit, that ours may be the kingdom of heaven; with the meek, that we may inherit the earth; with those that hunger and thirst after righteousness, that we may be filled; with the pure in heart, that we may see God; with the merciful, that we may obtain mercy; and with the peacemakers, that we may be called the children of God, the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. If the Lord is our light and our salvation, whom shall we fear? If the Lord is the strength of our life, of whom

shall we be afraid? In the time of trouble he shall hide us in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide us, he shall set us upon a rock. And now shall we be prosperous beneath his smiles, therefore will we offer in his tabernacles sacrifices of joy, we will sing, yea we will sing praises unto the Lord. Be mindful we beseech thee, O thou fountain of good, of all those who will not share our public privileges. Some are personally afflicted, and others are relatively distressed; grant that they may prove that the consolations of thy Spirit are neither few nor small. Pity those who follow lying vanities, and forsake their own mercies, and snatch them from perdition into which they are falling. May the angel of the covenant send to the dark places of the earth the good news, the glad tidings of salvation. From the rising of the sun, even unto the going down of the same, may the name of God be great among the Gentiles, and in every place may incense be offered to his name, and a pure offering. Speedily may the world become one vast and glorious temple, in which all mankind shall present themselves and their sacrifices before thee our God, through the great High Priest of our profession, who is worthy with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, of present and ceaseless honours. *Amen.*

SUNDAY EVENING.

TRULY our souls would wait upon God, for from him cometh our salvation. He only is our rock and our salvation; he is our glory, defence, and refuge; therefore will we trust in him at all times, and pour out our hearts before him. Through another of the days of the Son of Man we have professedly engaged in the service of the Majesty of heaven and earth, but, alas! how defectively and criminally! Our spiritual exercises and our secular occupations call alike for thine indignation. How many precious moments have we squandered! How much interruption have we allowed from unsuitable thoughts and feelings? How slow are we to understand the scriptures? How hard are our hearts! How backward are we to whatever is good! How prone are we to all that is evil. Visit us not, O Lord, with spiritual privation. Remove not, we entreat thee, our privileges from us, or us from our privileges. We know that we deserve not their continuance, but avert from us thy wrath, and extend to us thy compassion. God be merciful to us sinners! Hide thy face from our transgressions, and blot out our iniquities. Return, O Lord, and deliver our souls. O save us for thy mercy's sake, for *thou art ready* to forgive, and abundantly to

pardon those who diligently seek thee. We assure ourselves of this, as we look on Him who was once offered to bear the sins of many, and to make intercession for the transgressors. Believing that whoso cometh to Him he will in no wise cast out, we lay our hand on the head of Christ our passover, and earnestly beseech thee to clothe us in his finished righteousness. Again we have been favoured with the dispensation of divine truth. O that there were such hearts within us, as that we could fear God, and keep his commandments always, that it might be well with us, and our children for ever; for to obey is better than to sacrifice, and to hearken to thy voice is more acceptable than the fat of rams. Be it therefore unto us, O God, according to thy word; heal our backslidings, love us freely, stablish us by thy mighty power, and keep us henceforth from falling, that we may work out our salvation with fear and trembling, while thou art pleased to work in us to will and to do, of thine own good pleasure. While we supplicate grace to love the Lord with all our heart, and mind, and soul, and strength, may we prove that we love our neighbour as ourselves. Suffer us not to live in envy and malice, hateful, and hating one another, but may our love be without dissimulation, in honour preferring one another, to the end that our

hearts may be established unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, with all his saints. If any are disposed to injure us, we would not return evil for evil. Vengeance is thine, O Lord, forbid us to think of avenging ourselves, and enable us at all times to give place unto wrath; yea, if our enemy hunger may we feed him, and if he thirst give him drink; that in so doing we may heap up coals of fire on his head, and overcome evil with good. Like Him whose name we bear, we would do good unto all men, but especially to them who are of the household of faith. Whenever we see any of the disciples of Christ in circumstances of necessity, and affliction, and sorrow, may we give them our tenderest sympathies, and utmost aid; that we may evince our trust in the Saviour, and our devotedness to him, and at last hear him say, Well done, good and faithful servants, forasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my little ones, ye have done it unto me. We would reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us, when we are finally come unto Mount Sion, and into the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem: to the general assembly *and Church* of the first born, to the spirits of

just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to God the Judge of all. And as thou hast commanded thy loving kindness in the day-time, so in the night, should we awake, may our song be with thee, and our prayer to the God of our life. Remembering thee upon our bed and meditating on thee in the night watches, may the fire of holy affection burn, and having found the Lord who made heaven and earth, to be our help, may we arise to sing of his power, and abundantly to utter the memory of his goodness. And now unto the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen, nor can see, be honour and power everlasting. *Amen.*

MONDAY MORNING.

O GOD, how great is thy goodness! A wearisome night might have been appointed us. Thou mightest have scared us with dreams, and terrified us through visions, and we might have been full of tossings too and fro, until the dawning of the day. But thou hast bestowed on us sleep, such as thou givest to thy beloved, and our beds have refreshed and solaced us. The morning visits us as dependant

creatures. Stretch out, O Lord, thy munificent hand, and minister to our wants. We leave the nature and number of thy bestowments to the wisdom that cannot err, and to the love that cannot be unkind. Who knoweth what is good for man in this life? All our petitions we would therefore prefer in submission to the divine will. But as every creature of God is good, if it be sanctified by prayer, and received with thanksgiving, we would implore a competent measure of temporal things, and with this the blessing of the Lord that maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow; for concerning every man to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour, we know that this is the gift of God. Help us, as sinners, to receive with gladness the assurance that when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law; that he became bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; and that because he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name above every name, and made him the dispenser of rich and inestimable benefits. From his fulness, O God, let us individually be supplied. Make

it appear that he who has received gifts for men, has obtained some for us. O forbid that the necessities of one of us should be forgotten. Have we faith? Let it feed on the word of God, that it may increase in vigour, exert a powerful influence, and yield much fruit: and if we have it not, graciously implant within us this vital and saving principle. O God, as thou art love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him, may we be enabled to say, we love thee because thou hast first loved us, and that this holy affection regulates our thoughts and our feelings, our desires and our deeds. Let the fear of God be always before our eyes, and let the fear of man which bringeth a snare cease to affect us. When we are tempted to speak wickedly, O let thine excellency make us afraid, and thy dread fall upon us, and may we stand in awe and sin not. Grant us, we pray, thee, O our Father, submission to all thy dispensations; as clay in the hand of the potter, may we be in thine, and so establish and comfort our hearts that we may not be moved from the hope of the gospel by any afflictions; knowing that we are appointed thereunto, that we suffer according to the will of God, and that we ought to commit our souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. O that we could take more delight in

approaching the source of being and of blessedness, that we may know his ways, delight in his commandments, and never forsake his ordinances. Nourish us, we pray thee, in the words of faith, and of sound doctrine, and enable us to continue steadfastly in the things that we have learned from the scriptures, which are given by inspiration of God, and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that we may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, and prepared for life eternal.

Gracious God, look upon all those for whom we are solicitous, and be merciful unto them as thou usest to do unto them that love thy name. And help us all to unite in offering to thee sincere and grateful ascriptions both now and for ever. *Amen.*

MONDAY EVENING.

BLESSED be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of our supplication when we cried unto him with the whole heart, and lifted up our hands toward his holy oracle. Blessed be God, who hath not turned away our prayer, nor his mercy from us, for he is nigh to all that call upon him, to all that call upon him *in truth*; therefore will we still hope, and be

of good courage, that he will strengthen our hearts, and cause his goodness to follow us all the days of our lives. O, our Father, make us thankful, that we can thus approach thee, and mingle at thy feet our praises and our prayers. At thy throne may we gladly pour out our souls, lay aside our burdens, utter our complaints, deposit our anxieties, confess our sins, and find grace to help in every time of need. We adore thee for the new and living way which thou hast consecrated for us, through the Mediator. We bow, O Lord, to thine appointment, and gratefully comply with thy command, that we believe on the name of thy well-beloved Son. We would have no other Saviour, we would flee to no other refuge, we would wash in no other fountain, we would build on no other foundation, we would receive from no other fulness. May our motto in all things be, None but Christ, none but Christ. May the object of our love be his beauty, of our admiration his splendour, of our awe his majesty, of our astonishment his greatness, of our gratitude, his past favours, of our hope his future blessings, and of our lives his glory.

Some trust that they are righteous, and despise others; clothe us, we beseech thee, with humility, O thou, who abhorrest the proud, but dwellest with him who is of a

contrite spirit. If ever we discover what is right in thy sight, or think on the things that are pure, and lovely, and of good report, may our language be, Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name we give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. Teach us, O Lord, to be temperate in all things. When we sit down to eat, let us consider diligently what is before us, lest we imitate the men who are given to appetite, and desirous of dainties, which are deceitful meat. Number us with those, who, by the aid of thy grace, keep all their powers in subjection, and whose conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for our Lord and Saviour, who shall change this vile body, and fashion it like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. As the soul of the slothful desireth and hath nothing, but the hand of the diligent maketh rich, and his thoughts tend to plenteousness, may we be always actively employed, holding fast the profession of our faith without wavering, abiding in Christ, and continuing in his word; that we may increase in love and charity toward one another, and toward all men, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. Whatever advantages thou art pleased to bestow, may we never suppose that this is our rest.

Often do we hear thy voice saying to us, Arise, depart. Help us to render it prompt and cheerful obedience. That we may sustain no injury from the numerous and malignant foes that beset our path, may we take to ourselves the whole armour of God, and, so long as we are pilgrims in this wilderness, may our feet be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Let us not be afraid of evil tidings, having our hearts fixed, trusting in God. When we behold a cloud gathering over us, may our hope and prayer be not so much that it may be dissipated, but that blessings rich and unnumbered may fall upon us. Aid us to walk by faith, till we can walk by sight; to know as children, till we all come to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; and to see as in a glass the glory of the Lord, till we behold thee face to face. We would not confine our petitions to ourselves. Have mercy on all men. Be the friend and helper of the poor and needy, the father of the fatherless, and the husband of the widow. Solace such as are placed on beds of languishing, by the comforts of the Holy Spirit. Especially have regard to those with whom we are connected by ties the most endeared. Our affection is of little avail, O love them with an everlasting love; they are often hidden from our view, may thine eye always

be upon them; we can only wish and pray on their behalf, but thine hand can afford effectual relief.

Now then, grant it, we beseech thee, and to us all whatever is necessary for time and for eternity, through Jesus Christ our Advocate with the Father. *Amen.*

TUESDAY MORNING.

How shall we suitably approach thee, thou great, and unchanging God? Thou killest and makest alive; thou bringest down to the grave, and bringest up; thou raisest up the poor out of the dust, and liftest up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory; for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them. We adore the condescension, the long-suffering, the goodness of which we are living instances. May our sense of obligation increase with the number of our mercies, and our lives furnish an unceasing expression of our gratitude. For the existence and exercise of suitable feelings, dispositions, and principles, grant us the influences of thy Holy Spirit. As the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit

of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, may the third person of the glorious Trinity ever be with us. Father of mercies, preserve to us, if it please thee, the bounties of thy providence. Sustain to us every character that is adapted to our numerous and varied necessities. O that as the eagle stirreth up her nest, and fluttereth over her young, and taketh them and beareth them on her wings, so let the Lord lead us, and let his will be ours! Sanctify, we entreat thee, all we have. Blessed may we be in the city, and blessed may we be in the field. Blessed may we be in the fruit of our body, and in the fruit of our ground, and in all our worldly increase. Blessed may we be in our basket and our store, in our coming in, and in our going out. And teach us, O teach us, that while thou art good, supremely good in giving, thou art no less so in denying. In every privation may our language be, It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good. Support us at such times by the soothing and animating truths of thy sacred word. Cause our light affliction which is but for a moment, to work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory: while we look not at the things which are seen, but at those which are not seen; for the things which are

seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. We bless thee for thy word to which we have been attending. May it dwell in us richly in all wisdom. May we admit all its truths, and give to each of them its due importance. May thy statutes be our song in the house of our pilgrimage. Make them our companion in all our concerns, whether we are young or old, invested with authority, or appointed to obey—so that walking by this rule, mercy and peace may be upon us. We would not live as separated from our race. Help us to look not every man on his own things only, but also on the things of others. Avoiding the evil of selfishness, may we love our neighbour as ourselves. Teach us to do good to the unthankful and the unworthy, to bless them that curse us, to do good to them that hate us, and to pray for them that despitefully use us: that we may be the children of our Father who is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. Preserve our efforts to be useful from the injury that arises from inconsistency of character. May all our actions be in harmony, and all be accordant with thy righteous will. Grant unto us the joy of thy salvation, and uphold us with thy free spirit; then will we teach transgressors

thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Into thine hands we now commit our bodies and our spirits. We are in greater danger by day than by night, because we are surrounded with more evil, and more liable to the temptations of Satan. O let sin be regarded as our bitterest foe, and holiness be esteemed our highest and happiest attainment! While the wise man glories in his wisdom, and the mighty man glories in his might, and the rich man glories in his riches, suffer us not thus to disobey thy command,—but may our glory be this, that we understand and know thee, that thou art the Lord, who delightest to exercise loving-kindness, judgment and righteousness.

And now unto Him that is of power to stablish us according to the gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory, through Jesus Christ, for ever. *Amen.*

TUESDAY EVENING.

THY mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens, and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore do the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. Would that every contemplation of thy divine character, led us to consider the guilt and wretchedness of our own! We were far from thee by original creation, but how much further are we since the fall! We were born in sin, and in sin we have lived. We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep; we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts; we have offended against thy holy laws; we have left undone the things that we ought to have done, and we have done the things that we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. Have mercy, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders! How shall we magnify the benevolence that permits us thus to plead! We adore thee for this privilege. Behold us graciously in thy Son. Through Him all thine attributes harmonize and are glorified, while man is saved.

At the cross of Jesus mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. O stretch forth the sceptre of thy grace, bid us approach, and touch it, and live. So long as we are exposed to guilt, do thou incline us to repair to the fountain that is opened for sin, and for uncleanness. And, O grant that every discovery of pollution may humble us, increase our sense of its odiousness, and lead us to implore more of that grace by which we shall be preserved from doing the abominable thing which the soul of God hateth. Forbid, we entreat thee, that we should ever be chargeable with the daring presumption of those who continue in sin that grace may abound, but may we love much, because we have much forgiven. Teach us, O Lord, to live by the faith of thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, and thus to use the world as not abusing it, since the fashion thereof passeth away. No longer may we pass our time in the flesh, after the lusts of men, but may we strive to enter in at the strait gate; knowing that many shall seek to enter in and shall not be able, when once the Master of the house hath risen up, and hath shut to the door. Enable us to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are few and evil. Strengthen

us, that we may be steadfast, and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labour is not in vain in the Lord. Though tempted may we always overcome, through the power of God; and by this may we know that thou favourest us, because our enemies do not triumph over us. May we not be of those who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. And, when the King shall come in his glory, and all his holy angels with him, may we be found at his right hand, and hear him say, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Address not this language to us only. May it gladden the hearts of those to whom we are bound by the tenderest bonds. Many of them our eyes cannot now behold, but we would have them in perpetual, and affectionate remembrance. May God be their God as well as ours. May Christ be their Saviour as well as ours. May the Holy Ghost be their sanctifier as well as ours—and then shall we all find mercy of the Lord in that day. Till then remember us, O our God, for good. In difficulty do thou guide us; in trouble do thou sustain us; in temptation do thou succour us; in necessity do thou supply us;

in danger do thou defend us; at all times open our lips, and our mouths shall shew forth thy praise; and though death shall terminate for a moment our songs in this world, they shall be resumed in another, and ascend to the Triune Jehovah, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

WE thank thee, O Lord, that the lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places, and that we have truly a goodly heritage. Other nations, and families, and individuals are covered by the gloom of ignorance, and involved in the evils by which it is attended. But, through the tender mercy of our God, the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to us who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Again we have been permitted to listen to the Scripture which is given by inspiration of God. Our opportunities are frequent for closet-prayer. And now we meet at the domestic altar, and engage in its interesting and important exercises. O write upon our hearts the momentous truths, that the servant who knew his Lord's will and did

it not, was to be beaten with many stripes; and that as to us much has been given, so of us much will be required. Let not the talents committed to our care be hidden in the earth; but may every one be so employed that thou mayst receive thine own with interest. We trust we would not rob God. We would not be like Cain who presented the first fruits of the earth, when the firstlings of the flock, the appointed symbols of the great propitiation, were required. We would not offer the lame and the blind for sacrifice. We would give thee all we have, and all we are. But how vain are our resolutions without thee! If thou dost not aid us, they will be broken as soon as made, and the guilt of transgression will be greatly augmented by our knowledge, and convictions, and determinations. Grant us then more of the supply of the spirit of Christ Jesus. Give to our character decision, to our purposes vigour, to our hopes elevation, to our prayers fervour, to our zeal constancy, and to all our efforts perseverance. We admire and adore the compassion which does not despise the day of small things. To the humblest and the meanest situation we look as to the one which it behoves us to occupy. But we would still aspire to the highest. We would flourish like the palm-tree, we would grow like a cedar in Lebanon. We would

bring forth fruit in old age, we would always be flourishing. Teach us, O God, that in proportion to the largeness of thy donations will be the expansion of our desires, and that

> "Whoever says I want no more,
> Confesses he has none."

Inspire us with that disposition which shall esteem progressive religion, and that only, the one thing needful. When all is peace externally may we learn much, but if we refuse to do this, send us the chastenings of thy rod. If we will not listen to the still small voice, rouse us from our slumber by the whirlwind and the earthquake. May we feel that it is better to suffer here than hereafter; that it is better, infinitely better, to be visited for our iniquities on earth, than to endure their demerit in hell for ever. Again we are about to enter on our worldly occupations. May we pass through them piously. Although we shall be exposed to evil, may our minds be satisfied that thou canst preserve us. Suffer us not to sin against thee, after all thy kindness and care by a feeble dependance; but in every path of duty may we rest implicitly on thy promise, As thy days so shall thy strength be. Taking thy word as our guide, and turning neither to the right hand nor to the left,

may we cast all our care on God, assured that then, he careth for us; and that all things, whether plain or mysterious, whether pleasing or painful, shall work together for our good. Regard all who are connected with us by sacred ties. Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance, govern them and lift them up for ever. May the ministers of the gospel take heed to themselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. We would also commend to thy fatherly goodness, O Lord, all those who are afflicted in mind, body, or estate; be pleased to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. Soon may the ends of the earth remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations worship before thee, for the kingdom is thine, and thou art the governor among the nations. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O THOU great and immutable Jehovah, we adore thee as the Creator and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible. The day is thine, and the night is thine; thou hast granted us the one for labour, and the other for repose. Wearied by our various engagements, we hail the return of this season of rest, and now we would devoutly commit ourselves and all the objects of our affectionate regard, to thy gracious care. In thy sight, O Lord, the heavens are unclean, what then are we? We are, in consequence of sin, guilty, polluted, miserable creatures; we have nothing to attract thine attention but the awfulness of our degradation, and the extent of our necessities; but, happily for us, thou wilt both compassionate and relieve us, if we trust in thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son. On Him, as the corner stone laid in Zion, tried, elect, and precious, we would at this time, and at all times, raise our hopes. Accept us, and bless us individually, for his sake, we humbly and earnestly beseech thee. While there be many that say, Who will shew us any good? Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. Remember us with

the favour thou bearest to thy chosen, and visit us with thy salvation, that we may see the good of thy people, rejoice with the gladness of thy nation, and glory with thine inheritance. Let us be wise and endued with knowledge, and shew out of a good conversation our works with meekness of wisdom. Save us from the wisdom that descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, and devilish. But give us, O give us the wisdom that is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Impart to us that love, which excites to all holy obedience. Give us the light of the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Chase from our understandings every species, every principle of error. Subdue the rebellion of our wills, that we may submit to thy commands with delight, and acquiesce in thy dispensations without murmuring. Unite our hearts to fear thy name, and in the fear of the Lord may we be all the day long. Make us Israelites indeed, in whom is no guile. May we exercise ourselves to have a conscience void of offence before God, and before man; and ever think, and feel, and act, as beneath the great task-master's eye. We would deplore the evils with which we are chargeable. We are not what we ought

to be; how imperfect and defective are all our doings! We are not what we wish to be; we would hate sin more, and serve thee better. We are not what we hope to be; we look to a period when we shall put off mortality, and with it our infirmities and sins. With the apostle we would acknowledge that by the grace of God we are what we are, and to Him who bestows it in sovereignty we would render the praise. Teach us, O Lord, to number our days. Habitually may we feel that life is a vapour, a flood, a flower, a handbreadth, a tale that is told, a dream; and even nothing before God. Practically let us declare that the time is short, that it remaineth that both they that have wives be as though they had none, and they that weep as though they wept not, and they that rejoice as though they rejoiced not, and they that buy as though they possessed not, and they that use this world as not abusing it;—for the fashion of this world passeth away. Inspire us all, O Lord, with a serious concern to be in a state of preparation for our last hours. Make us watchful for the coming of the Son of Man. Enable us often to contemplate, and steadily to realize the certainty of our appearance at the bar of Christ; when he shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God. Now may

we embrace him as our Saviour, and then may we hail his approach with rapture as the Judge of quick and dead; and through eternity we will ascribe to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, all honour and praise. *Amen.*

THURSDAY MORNING.

WE would seek unto God, and unto God would we commit our cause, who doeth great things and unsearchable, marvellous things without number; who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth water upon the fields; to set up on high those that be low, that those who mourn may be exalted to safety. Again the morning has dawned upon us. Truly the light is good, and it is a pleasant thing for the eyes to behold the sun. But how much more joyous is it to admit the light of divine truth into the mind, and to reflect its beams on others. O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leddest Joseph like a flock, thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth. While we feel that our necessities are great and numerous, help us to discern clearly the plenitude of thy grace. While patriarchs, prophets, martyrs, and believers since their

day, have partaken of the blessings of the everlasting covenant, which is ordered in all things and sure, may we rejoice that there is still enough and to spare,—enough for us, and enough for all, who shall look to the great and only propitiation. Help us, O Lord, to adore and magnify thy name for the freeness as well as the riches of thy grace. Were any thing required of us, our cases would be hopeless. We have nothing. All we possess came from thee. We have bodies, but they are thy workmanship. We have souls, but thou didst create them. We have blessings connected with the life that now is, but every one fell from thine indulgent hand. Our wretchedness and helplessness alone can plead for us, and favour free as the air we breathe, alone can meet our wants. Help us, O God, to put our whole trust in thee, as the only source of blessedness. From thy plenitude may we receive far more than we can ask or think, and so long as we live we will exclaim, Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy name; and, if we are permitted to enter heaven, we will resume the song, and cast our crowns at thy feet. We acknowledge thy goodness, our Father, who art in heaven, in continuing to us thy temporal favours, in preserving us during the past night from evil, and in per-

mitting us, attended by so many comforts, to bow at thy footstool. We rejoice that our times are in thine hands, and we would not breathe a desire to have them in our own. If prosperity await us, prepare us to honour thee with our substance, and with the first-fruits of all our increase. May we consider ourselves stewards of thy bounty, not proprietors; and that whatever we have is not a gift, but a loan. And if adversity is approaching, preserve us from despising the chastening of the Lord, or from fainting when we are rebuked of him. Teach us that whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth; and that if we are without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are we bastards, and not sons. In the light of thy truth, and confiding in thy faithfulness, may we adopt, especially at such times, the language of the prophet, Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet we will rejoice in the Lord, we will joy in the God of our salvation. In all our dealings with our fellow men may we do justly; in all cases asking our sympathy and relief may we prove that we love mercy; *and in all the* dispensations of providence and

grace, may we walk humbly with our God. Help us to add unto faith valour. Let us be strong and of good courage, obeying God rather than man. Dispose us to place the Lord Jesus Christ always before us; on his mediation may we depend; to his image may we be conformed; by his word may we be guided; and to the enjoyment of his presence may we habitually aspire.

O Thou, who knowest our weakness, and art able to make all grace abound towards us, grant that we, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound in every good work; and building up ourselves in our most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, and watching thereunto with all perseverance, may be kept continually in thy love, daily looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life, to whom be glory for evermore. *Amen.*

THURSDAY EVENING.

O! THOU who art the all-seeing Jehovah, we may well humble ourselves before thee, because of our numberless and heinous offences. We have not known as we ought to have done the Lord God of our fathers, or served *him with* a perfect heart and a willing

mind, and therefore we deserve to be cast off for ever. Often have we praised in our hearts the mammon of unrighteousness, and the God in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways, we have not glorified as the only living and true God. But blessed be thy name, O Lord, for thou hast said, As I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way, and live. Return then, O Lord, and deliver our souls, O save us for thy mercy's sake. For thou Lord art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in goodness to all them that call upon thee. O that we could go and sin no more. To will is present with us, but how to perform that which is good we find not. For the good that we would, we do not; but the evil that we would not that we do. We delight in the law of God after the inward man, but we see another law in our members, warring against the law of our minds, and bringing us into captivity to the law of sin which is in our members. O wretched creatures that we are, who shall deliver us from the body of this death? We know that sin will exist so long as we live, but forbid it, we entreat thee, O Lord, to have dominion. Instead of being in authority as it is in the natural man, may it be always in bondage as it is in the spiritual man. Suffer

no thought to arise in our minds, no feeling to control our hearts, no act to be performed, which thou wilt not approve; or, should this occur, may a deep sense of guilt and pollution be attended by penitence, and by a believing application to the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. Let the blood which flowed from the veins of Emmanuel atone for our iniquities, and be sprinkled on our persons and sacrifices. Ever would we present our offerings on the altar which sanctifieth both the giver and the gift. Trusting to ourselves they will be odious before thee, but through the only Mediator they will have a sweet smelling savour.

We pray thee, O God, to give greater energy to the conviction that if we are straitened it is not in thee, but in ourselves. Our errors and necessities are to be traced to our indolence, and insensibility, and corruption. If we are overtaken in a fault, it is because we do not watch; if we fall from weakness, it is because we do not confide in the arm of Omnipotence. Help us for the future to exercise more correct discrimination, and to observe attentively not only that which seems great, but that which appears little. Preserve us, not merely from open, but from secret backslidings; not only from wicked doings, but from corrupt motives. And guard us, we

beseech thee, from adopting an unsuitable standard of judgment in scrutinizing our own characters. May we attend not so much to what we are when in company, as to what we are when alone; not so much to what we are when under excitement, as to what we are when under no outward influence. For doing this we look to that treasury of good, to which we must repair in all times of necessity. We thank thee, blessed Jesus, for thine own most precious words, I am the bread of life, he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. Lord, evermore give us this bread; and grant that a stream from the river of the water of life may refresh, and fertilize, and satisfy our souls. We would prove thee now herewith, O thou hearer and answerer of prayer, if thou wilt not open the windows of heaven, and pour us out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things that God hath prepared for them that love him; but may God reveal them unto us by his Spirit, for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. Now may we be the sons of God, and though it doth not yet appear what we shall be, yet this we know, that when Christ shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

We would thank the Lord, who hath preserved us this day from all evil. The Lord is our keeper, he hath been as a shade upon our right hand, and our obligations to him are increased since we arose, by unnumbered mercies. Defend us, O God, and all whom we would commend to thy care, through this night, and in the morning encompass us with songs of deliverance. We ask it in the name and for the sake of our exalted Redeemer. *Amen.*

FRIDAY MORNING.

WE might have slept the sleep of death, but thou, O Lord, hast again enlightened our eyes, and caused the outgoings of the morning to rejoice over us. Therefore would we stand up, to thank the Lord, who not only gave us songs in the night, but is still our help, giving us cause to speak of his praise. We would adore thee, O thou glorious Jehovah, as the supreme disposer of all events. If a kingdom sink into ruin, it is at thy pleasure; if a sparrow fall on the ground, it is by thy permission. When thou givest quietness who then can make trouble? when thou hidest thy

face who then can behold thee; whether it be done against a nation or against a man only! Be thou, O Lord, at all times the rock of our strength, the object of our absolute and unwavering dependance. Implant within us that vital and powerful principle which will lead us to trust thee where we cannot trace thee, assured that what God has promised he is able to perform. Give us grace that we may be careful for nothing. In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving enable us to make our requests known unto God. And let the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Precede us, O God, in all our doings, and further us by thy continual help, that in all things begun, continued, and ended with thee, we may glorify thy holy name. Save us from forgetting our benefactor, and from abusing thy gifts, lest thou shouldst return, and take away our mercies at the time in which they are most needed. O fit us for sickness, that we may be prepared for health; fit us for death, that we may be prepared for life; fit us for eternity, that we may be prepared for time. Afford to us, and to others, we beseech thee, satisfactory evidence of our interest in the Saviour. May we prove that he who

believeth hath the witness in himself; while by our conduct, we are manifestly declared to be the epistles of Christ. As thine elect, may we put on bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, even as Christ forgave us. Let our religion have not merely an occasional but an habitual influence. Should its holy flame not always blaze, O may it always burn. Shew us the connection between duty and dependance, and save us from the extremes into which those fall who trust only in means, or presumptuously despise them. Work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure, and we will work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Preserve us, O Lord, from the levity and indifference, which are so unsuitable to creatures who live continually beneath thine eye, and are always standing on the verge of eternity. We hold ourselves at thy disposal with regard to the duties and events of life. Whatever preferences we feel, help us to say, Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done. If we are called to resign any of our possessions, may they be yielded in the spirit of him who exclaimed, The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, and blessed be the name of the Lord. Make

us truly thankful for the continuance of our comforts; and that in a world of such changes and woes, our privileges have been so many, and our trials so few. May we be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Putting on the whole armour of God, may we be able to stand against the wiles of the devil; for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Having our loins girt about with truth, and the breast-plate of righteousness, and the preparation of the gospel of peace, and the shield of faith, wherewith we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, and the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints,—may we be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

And now we look to Him alone, for acceptance with God, who blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross, even Jesus Christ; who fulfilled all righteousness, and being the Mediator of the

better covenant, brought in a better hope; by the which we now draw nigh unto God, and ascribe to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost eternal honours. *Amen.*

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When we consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained; What is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him? So great is thy condescension that thou regardest the meanest, and the most unworthy of thy creatures, or we had been forgotten. Day by day we magnify thee, O Lord, who art ever loading us with benefits. We have been thy charge from our birth, and in all conditions thou hast cared for us. If we have been fed, it has been at thy table; if we have been clothed, it has been from thy wardrobe; if we have been secure, it has been from the constant inter-

position of thy power; yea we exist, because thou art pleased to uphold our souls in life. Grant us, O Lord, a continuance of thy mercies, and let our gratitude increase with our obligations to thee. As sinners we are conscious of spiritual as well as temporal wants, and we would rejoice in possessing the glorious gospel of the blessed God. May we know the joyful sound. May we believe the testimony which thou hast given concerning thy Son. May we embrace the faithful saying, which is worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, even the chief. Ever would we adore the wisdom that devised the plan of human redemption, the love that carried it into effect, and the power by which its blessings are applied to the soul. Assimilate us to angels who desire to look into these things; to prophets who searched what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified before-hand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow; and to those who say with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory and blessing. May we regard the spectacle of Calvary as exhibiting the noon-tide of everlasting love, the meridian splendour of eternal mercy.

Grant us to behold it whenever we open the Scriptures, or listen to the gospel, or engage in devout meditation, or commemorate the death of our departed Lord. May this be frequently our privilege. When oppressed by a sense of guilt, may we stand near the cross, that believing we may exclaim, He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities, on him was the chastisement of our peace, and by his stripes we are healed. When we are depressed by trials and afflictions, may we stand near the cross, considering Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest we be wearied and faint in our minds; and feeling that if we suffer with him we shall reign with him; while if we deny him he also will deny us. When the present state puts forth all its attractions, may we stand near the cross, adopting as our own the language of the apostle, God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I unto the world. As we need a model for imitation, may we stand near the cross, because Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again, when he suffered he threatened not, but committed

himself to him that judgeth righteously. And when the last messenger is approaching, may we stand near the cross; we have, we would have, no hope but that which is founded on the finished work of the only Mediator between God and man. O that he who is gone to prepare a place for his people may then come again, to soothe our spirits, and to animate our hopes; and when he shall be revealed from heaven, may we lift up our heads with joy and not with grief, while he shall point us out to assembled worlds, in infinite condescension, and say, Behold my brother, and sister, and mother. Till then may God supply all our need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. And now may the very God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight; to whom be ascribed honour and praise immortal. *Amen.*

SATURDAY MORNING.

O GOD, thou hast chosen the foolish things *of the* world to confound the wise, and the

weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty, and base things of the world, and things which are despised hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence. We rejoice that while the great of this world dare not presume on thy bounty, the poor and the humble have no cause for despair. The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him, for God is no respecter of persons. And at this time we would look up unto thee Most High, through our Advocate, who is passed into the heavens. By the mystery of his holy incarnation; by his holy nativity and circumcision; by his baptism, fasting, and temptation; by his agony, and bloody sweat; by his cross and passion; by his precious death and burial; by his glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Ghost, we would beseech thee, to have mercy upon us. We draw nigh unto thee as sinful creatures, for whom thy blessed Son was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer a cruel and ignominious death. Though we deserve nothing but condemnation, for his sake remove the curse; and though, of ourselves, we can make no suitable offering, yet *perfumed with the* incense of his redemption,

may all we have and are be an acceptable sacrifice.

Most gracious Redeemer, we humbly worship thy heavenly majesty. Thou art the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last. Thou art the Creator, Sustainer, Proprietor, and Ruler of thrones, and dominions, principalities and powers. Thou art also the Head of the church, which thou hast loved, and for which thou didst give thyself, that it might be sanctified and cleansed with the washing of water by the word. O what riches of grace are manifest in thy gospel, which thou hast commanded to be proclaimed to every creature on the face of the earth! Grant unto each of us thy heavenly grace, to deliver us from the kingdom of darkness, to translate us into thy heavenly kingdom, and to make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. Carry on in our souls, from day to day, the work of faith with power. Fill us with the knowledge of thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. And whatsoever our hand findeth to do, enable us to do it with our might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge in the grave whither we are going.

Again we have been permitted to rise

from the image of death, and we would make mention of the loving kindness of the Lord our God. We would lament our criminal forgetfulness of our heavenly benefactor, and would pray that henceforth our memories may gratefully retain his mercies. O God, what are we, and what is our father's house, that thou shouldst bring us hitherto? What is man that thou shouldst magnify him, that thou shouldst set thine heart upon him, that thou shouldst visit him every morning, and try him every moment? Never let it be said of us, I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, and the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown. But may we lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith,—holding fast our confidence, and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end,—being confident of this very thing, that he who hath begun a good work in us will carry it on until the day of Christ Jesus.—O may all things be ours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come, may all be ours; may we be Christ's, for Christ is God's.

In the *worldly* engagements in which we

have now to enter, may we exhibit a decided contrast to those who have their portion in this life. Grant that a view of the things which are above may cheer us in the midst of any trials through which we may have to pass; and may it repress every feeling of vain confidence, shouldst thou favour us with a measure of temporal prosperity. Should it be accordant with thy dispensations, let us assemble together this evening with minds undisturbed, and with hearts affected by a sense of divine things, so that we may repose in peace, and wake adoring the God of the Sabbath, to whom be praises in the highest, now, henceforth, and for ever. *Amen.*

SATURDAY EVENING.

WE bless thee, O Lord, that we are not commanded this night to approach the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, attended by blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words, which voice they that heard, entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more; but we are come, welcomed by thy voice, unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find

grace to help in time of need. We adore thee, O thou searcher of hearts, as almighty in power, unsearchable in wisdom, inflexible in justice, spotless in purity, and immutable in truth. Possessing these attributes, may Jehovah be regarded by us as a being demanding profound veneration. But as a discovery of thy love alone will attract us as sinners to thee, melt our hard and stubborn hearts, and keep us trusting in thy promises,—indulge us with it, O God, we beseech thee. Teach us to behold thy benevolence in the works of thine hands, in the dispensations of thy providence, and in the means of grace. Open our eyes to observe it, especially in the gift of a Saviour, knowing that in this it was peculiarly manifested. And, while we gaze, may we, constrained by thy mercies, present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service. O let us not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. What appears so conspicuously in thy character, may we ardently desire to mark our own. May we owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not kill, thou

shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. For all our omissions of good, and commissions of evil through another day and another week, we would crave thy forgiveness. Wretched would be our present state were it not for the declaration, that with the Lord there is mercy and with him is plenteous redemption. Grant that while we hope for pardon through the blood of the cross, we may be quickened in thy way, clothed with humility, and made more solicitous about the things that belong to our everlasting peace. Accept our united thanksgivings for personal and domestic mercies. How secure and happy is our lot compared with that of many others! Our cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy hath hitherto followed us. By the good hand of God upon us may we continue, waiting all our appointed days, until our change come. And when that period shall arrive, may we look to the repose of the grave as calmly as we do now to that of our bed, exclaiming, I know whom I have believed, and feel persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Be at this time the protector of this house-

hold, and of all its connexions, thou compassionate Jehovah.—Permit us to rise in the morning with health of body and spirituality of mind. We anticipate with pleasure another Lord's day. We have often gone with the multitude to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with the multitude that keep holy day. If now we joy in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the atonement, let our delights be greatly increased. Indulge us with a rich antepast of heaven, while we are sojourners on earth, as were all our fathers. And, if any of us are now depressed, may our language be, Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance,—Though deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy water-spouts, and all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me, yet the Lord will command his loving-kindness in the day-time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer to the God of my life. Ever may we abstain from doing our pleasure on thy holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and honour him, not doing our own ways, nor finding our own pleasure, nor speaking our own words. O that the name of our Lord

Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in him, according to the goodness of our God, and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

THIRD WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O HOW great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, which thou hast wrought out for them that trust in thee, before the sons of men! O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and that we might have grace, at this time, to bless and magnify his name! How ample is the proof we have that thy providence, O Lord, is kind and large! Our habitation is still secure, our minds retain all their faculties, and unnumbered mercies attend us. From many, such blessings are withheld; they know nothing of our advantages, they partake not of our joys. What are we, or what is our father's house, that thou art thus pleased to remember us? We are all as an *unclean thing*, and all our righteousnesses are

as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf; but thou art God, and not man, and therefore it is, that we are not cut off from the land of the living.

If we are blessed in temporal things, we are much more so in spiritual things. Thousands, and tens of thousands, bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, were never gladdened by a Christian Sabbath, nor instructed by the volume of divine inspiration, nor permitted to hear of the atoning blood of Christ, the regenerating energy of his Spirit, or the blessedness that will be experienced at the marriage-supper of the Lamb. With sincere gratitude, may fervent desires now arise for that almighty power, by which a sacred efficacy shall be given to all our privileges. O that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, thou Spirit of the Eternal God, and grant unto us thy gracious influences. Never may the charge be given to the ministers of thy word in reference to us, Go, and tell this people, hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.—Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and be converted and healed. Often

have we merited, and often has our state of feeling invoked such a commission. How frequently have we said of thy day, What a weariness is it! and of thy truth, It is light food! And even since we have known thee, or rather been known of thee, we have so far yielded ourselves to the deceitfulness of our hearts, the delusions of the world, and the temptations of Satan, as to lose the blessings that waited, and asked, and were urged upon our acceptance.—Surely it is meet to be said unto God, We have borne chastisement, we will not offend any more; that which we see not teach thou us, if we have done iniquity we will do no more. Help us to keep our vows. Strengthen us to fulfil all the good pleasure of thy will. May the interrogation constantly appeal to our hearts, What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and that ye are not your own? And as we are bought with a price, may we glorify God in our body, and in our spirit, which are God's.

We would intercede with the Most High in behalf of all devoted to sanctuary services. As thou, O God, hast made them watchmen, may they hear the word at thy mouth, and give all due warning from thee, *saying unto* the wicked, that if they continue

so, they shall surely die; and to the righteous that they must not turn from their righteousness to commit iniquity;—that thus the blood of souls may not be required at their hand. And while some are removed from their fields of labour, and many of the necessitous send forth the cry, Come over and help us, so pour out thy Spirit on the schools of the prophets; that from thence may proceed a succession of faithful men, who shall not count their lives dear unto themselves, so that they may finish their course with joy, and the ministry which they have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Let all thy disciples, O divine Saviour, be established with truth, rejoice in it, and walk steadfastly therein, that they may be henceforth no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;—but may they grow up into thee, in all things. Bless, O God, all ranks and degrees of men. O let the innocent stir up himself against the hypocrite. May many appear when it is said, Who shall stand up for God against the workers of iniquity? Let all iniquity stop her mouth, and may the *righteous see* it and rejoice. O grant, we

beseech thee, that each one, in this and in other lands, may turn from the evil of his ways; so shall it be well with us, and our children for ever.

With these confessions, thanksgivings, and prayers we come, O Lord, to thy throne; but we approach thee in the name of him who makes intercession for the transgressors. Him thou hearest always, and to Him, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be praises for ever and ever. *Amen.*

SUNDAY EVENING.

Doubtless thou art our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not. Thou, O Lord, art our Father, and our Redeemer, this is thy name from everlasting. We are the clay, thou art the potter, and we are all the work of thy hand; for thou Lord hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. May we be thy children, O God, not merely in the sense in which the whole human race are, but may we be so by adoption and grace. Let us be found forsaking the vain and delusive objects in which many trust, and coming weary and heavy laden

unto Christ for spiritual rest. Abiding in Him, as branches in the vine, may we have evidence that God hath blessed us, and chosen us in Christ, before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before him in love. If tribulation, or distress, or persecution await us, in all these things, may we be more than conquerors, through him who hath loved us. O grant our prayer we earnestly beseech thee, for we are persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Lord bless the religious exercises of this day to us, and to all who have passed through them. May the tributes of acknowledgment which have been presented at thy throne, O God, be graciously accepted through the Son of thy love. Answer the petitions preferred in the closet, in the family, and in thine house, not according to our wishes, but our wants; not according to our expressions, but to the dictates of thine unerring wisdom. And give full effect, we entreat thee, to the word of thy grace. Let it console the penitent, support the distressed, direct the inquiring, instruct the ignorant, reclaim the backsliding, and quicken the dead in trea-

passes and sins. Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty, and in thy majesty ride prosperously, because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. O let thine arrows, blessed Jesus, be sharp in the hearts of the King's enemies, that so the people may fall under thee. Be thou universally exalted, for thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

Some have not been allowed to enter the courts of the Lord's house, may he compensate fully for this privation. If it be their privilege to rejoice in hope of the glory of God, may they glory in tribulation also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Lessen the number of those, O Lord, of whom it is said, Thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction; they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

Subdue, thou mighty God, the impenitence of transgressors; lead them in fervent supplication to thy feet, and induce them

to yield themselves unto thee as those who are alive from the dead. Suffer not one of this family, or its connexions to neglect the day of their merciful visitation; but may we all form a part of that church for which Christ gave himself, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing. We commend ourselves, O Lord, to thy paternal care. Through the day thou hast been our light and salvation; through the night be thou our defence; and, if repose be interrupted, our song. Remind us, by putting off our garments and lying down to sleep, of the mortality of the body, and the slumber of the grave. Prepare us, individually, for the night of death, the morning of the resurrection, the day of judgment, and the years at the right hand of the Most High. At the side of the Eternal Judge may we joyfully embrace thy servant to whom we have listened this day; let him then be surrounded by a large number, the seals of his ministry, and with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, may we sit down together in the kingdom of God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

MONDAY MORNING.

LORD, what is man that thou takest knowledge of him? Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie; when laid in the balance they are altogether lighter than vanity. Thou puttest no trust in us whose breath is in our nostrils, who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before the moth. Without us, thou wouldst be exalted far above all blessing and praise, and infinitely happy in thyself; but without thee, we should perish. How great is thy mercy in offering to supply our wants, to raise us to communion with thee, and to introduce us to the unspeakable, and eternal joys of thy presence! We praise, we magnify, we adore thy grace. We discover in it the boundless munificence of a God. We behold revealed a treasury, containing every thing we need, and even infinitely more than we could conceive or entreat. But we are as weak as we are poor; we cannot reach after these blessings of ourselves; we require strength from above to enable us to grasp them; impart it, we beseech thee, for thy great name's sake. O lead us to the rock that is higher than we. Let thy grace be sufficient for us. Let thy strength be made

perfect in our weakness. Prone are we to presumption and pride. Shew us, we pray thee, our sin and folly. Suffer us not to be wise in our own conceits, but may we be clothed with humility; because God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble. Often may we muse on thy words, thou high and lofty One that inhabitest eternity, whose name is holy—I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also, that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to raise the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Gracious God, we humbly beseech thee to take away the guilt of our sins, through the atonement of thy Son; justify our persons through his righteousness, and subdue the power of our corruptions by thy Spirit. While we are in this life we are in continual danger; let the ever-watchful eye of God be upon us for our defence. Let not the prosperity of the wicked discourage us. If perplexed by these dispensations, lead us to thy holy sanctuary, that we may envy them no longer, seeing that thou hast set them in slippery places, and thou wilt at last cast them down to destruction. Sanctify all thy providences to us. May thy favours, as cords of love, draw us nearer to thyself; and may the chastenings of thy rod wean us from sin, mortify us to the world, and make us ready

for our departure hence, whenever the master shall call us. Hold us up by thy right hand, O God, and help us to walk continually with thee. O that we could carry the truths of thy word to which we listened on the past Sabbath, and every suitable feeling excited by them, into our secular affairs! Evermore give us this bread. Give us of that water of which if a man drink he shall never thirst; yea, let it be in us a well of water springing up into everlasting life. To thy wisdom, power, protection, goodness, and mercy, we commit at all times those to whom we are related. According to thy word, let it go well with them and their children after them, and, if consistent with thy will, may their days be prolonged upon the earth, to shew forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

If there be any who have imagined devices against us wrongfully, or dealt treacherously with us, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge; but open their eyes to behold the error of their ways, and the greatness of their iniquity. But if we have made any enemies, by our envy, hatred, or foolish talking and jesting, which are not convenient, bestow upon us that sorrow which is of a godly sort, and which will lead us to discover such a spirit of amity and love, that

our foes may be made to be at peace with us. —And now, O Lord, hear and answer, pardon, accept, and bless us, for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ, through whom by one Spirit, be ascribed to the only living and true God, everlasting praises. *Amen.*

MONDAY EVENING.

WE will praise thee, O Lord, with our whole heart, and will shew forth all thy marvellous works. O Lord, how manifold are they; in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches. Thou hast not left thyself without witness, for the invisible things of God from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made; so that men are without excuse, if they do not know thee, nor glorify thee as God.

Alas for us, that we are so ignorant of the greatest and best of Beings, and so forgetful of his numberless claims. Our sorrows are often inscribed in the rock, while our mercies are written in the sand. Through another day thou hast loaded us with benefits, and yet how cold, how insensible are our hearts, even at thy footstool! O

let our ingratitude lead us to the humiliating survey of our own depravity, and a view of this urge us to Him, who can mould us according to his own will.—That the fruit may be good, make the tree good; that the streams may be pure, O cleanse the spring. As in the soul action originates, and the evil deeds of our lives are to be traced to the defilements of the spirit, to this direct the mighty operations of thy grace. In the estimate of our own character, preserve us from the errors into which many fall, who judge of themselves by others; but may we take as a standard thy holy law, in all its spirituality and extent, and obligation; and by this may we determine whether we are among believers or unbelievers; and also, how far we observe it, or depart from it in thought, and feeling, and act. Remove far from us the indisposition we have to secret exercises, particularly to personal scrutiny. O let each one of us prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself, and not in another. Help us to make this, not an occasional, but a daily employment; so that at the close of life we may have but one day to examine, be freed from the guilt and misery of self-ignorance, and possess satisfactory and cheering evidence of our interest in the Lamb *that was slain.*

Give us grace, O Lord, to consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him that appointed Him; and has left us an example that we should follow his steps. May we learn of Him who is meek and lowly of heart, to deny ourselves, to take up our cross, and to be holy in all manner of conversation, that doing whatsoever he commands us, we may be his friends. O that we may be no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone.

We sometimes trust that whereas we were once blind, now we see. Formerly we loved only the vanities of time, but we hope that God has given us some relish for the things of eternity. Often indeed do we fail and come short in our duties, but we would be thankful that by the grace which first quickened us, we as often repent, and resolve, and endeavour to abhor that which is evil, and to cleave to that which is good. Enable us, O Lord, to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, knowing that he is faithful who hath promised. Hold thou us up, and we shall be safe. *Only as we* are persevering in the ways

of God, may we expect to be found among them who endure to the end, and are saved with an everlasting salvation. Forbid that like Ephraim we should turn back in the day of battle. May we live and die with our face turned towards the foe. Having overcome, do thou grant us O gracious Redeemer, to sit with thee on thy throne, even as thou hast also overcome, and art set down with thy Father on his throne. To those in this family and its various relations who know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, impart that power by which they shall arise from a death of sin to a life of righteousness. Suffer not the king of terrors to sever the bonds which nature has formed. Allow eternity to be inscribed on our present union. Let it not be the aggravated woe of a single individual to behold the rest entering into blessedness, while he is shut out. Now may we all be devoted to thy fear, and then shall we ever be with the Lord. We dare not ask for blessings so rich and great were it not for thy promises, which are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus. May these scatter more and more the unbelief of our hearts, and inspire us with confidence. During this night may our dwelling be secure, and may we be in peace. Refresh our bodies, and

recreate our minds by sleep; when we awake may we be still with thee, and may we rise to love thee more and serve thee better than we have done this day, or any that is past, through our blessed Lord and Saviour, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

TUESDAY MORNING.

WITH humble, but grateful hearts, we would come near this morning to the Ancient of days, unto whom a thousand thousands minister, and before whom ten thousand times ten thousand stand in grateful adoration.—But wherewith shall we come before the Lord, and bow ourselves before the high God? Shall we come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall we give our first-born for our transgression, the fruit of our body for the sin of our soul? How great is our privilege in the revelation of Jesus who has said, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me! Unfeignedly would we rejoice, that though there is no other medium of approach, the one we have is fully adequate

to all our necessities. The testimony has been repeated from heaven, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased! Making mention of his name, ever dear to thee our God, and prevalent with thee, we draw nigh unto the mercy-seat according to thy word: Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you;—for all these things will I be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them.

And now what shall we say who are but sinful dust and ashes, and who have taken upon us to speak to thee the Sovereign Majesty of heaven and earth? Justly might our great and manifold sins provoke thee to hide thy face from us, and to cast us away from thy presence. We have done wickedly in not regarding the works of the Lord,—in not hearkening to the calls of his word. Our transgressions are a sore burden too heavy for us to bear. If thou, O Lord, shouldst enter into judgment with us, we could not answer thee for one of a thousand; our mouths must be stopped, we must all stand guilty before God. How wonderful is the long-suffering that has been exercised towards us; how amazing the mercy to which we are encouraged to look with humble confidence! Thou hast said, Let the wicked forsake his

way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, for he will abundantly pardon—we, therefore, earnestly pray that thou wilt be pleased to stretch forth thine hand, and to relieve us, tied and bound as we are by the chains of our sins. May our souls, freed from every yoke of bondage, be fitted to serve thee with that sincerity, readiness, and gladness, which thou requirest of thy people. Help us to forsake as well as to confess our iniquities, so that we may have a well-grounded hope of thy forgiveness, and acceptance in the Beloved. O let us not be unwise, but may we understand what the will of the Lord is. Regulate our unruly passions, purify our corrupt affections, and renew all our faculties, that they may be instruments of thy glory, as they have been of thy dishonour. Let the work of thy grace be daily advancing in our hearts, that we may be better fitted for the engagements of life, and continually ripening for the full enjoyment of thy glory. Bless us, O Lord, as a family, with every thing suited to our several circumstances. Give us all wisdom to know the duties of our respective stations; and grace that they may be faithfully discharged. May integrity and uprightness preserve us. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands

upon us, yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. O Lord, thou knowest our frame, thou rememberest that we are dust; suffer us not to be tempted above what we are able to bear, or with the temptation make a way for our escape.

We lament that darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. Let the time to favour Zion, the set time soon come. Enlarge the place of her tents, and stretch forth the curtains of her habitations. O lengthen her cords, strengthen her stakes, and say unto her, Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee! May a little one become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation; the Lord hasten it in his time. Now the Lord direct our hearts unto the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ, that we may be built up in our most holy faith, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. *Amen.*

TUESDAY EVENING.

LORD, we cry unto thee: make haste unto us, give ear unto our voice, when we cry unto thee. Let our prayer be set before thee

as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. We deserve not the privilege which we now enjoy. We merit nothing but condemnation. Our portion, hadst thou dealt with us in strict justice, must have been with those who are cast into outer darkness, where are weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. But who is a God like unto thee? Thou pardonest iniquity, and passest by the transgression of the remnant of thy heritage; thou retainest not thine anger for ever, because thou delightest in mercy. Thou wilt turn again, thou wilt have compassion upon us, thou wilt subdue our iniquities, thou wilt cast our sins into the depths of the sea,—if they are confessed, and hated, and forsaken. O that thou wouldst enable us to do this! As we always fail, may we always be contrite. Let us not be satisfied with exercises that are formal, but may ours be marked by sincerity, and fervour, and perseverance. What things were gain to us, even those may we count loss for Christ, yea, may we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. O that we may win Christ, and be found in him, not having on our own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith;—that we may know him and

the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable to his death.

How prone are we, amid the things of this world, to be forgetful of the soul, and God, and Christ, and eternity! Numerous are the objects which exert their power to draw us from thee. Take away, O Lord, their ensnaring influence, and defeat the insidious designs of our spiritual adversaries. Shew us the vanity of the present state in the light of thy word, and in that of another and a better world. Keep us near thy throne, thine arm, and thy heart. Only as we are found in the ways of thine appointment, and trusting in thy promises, may we suppose that we are secure. Utterly impotent are we in ourselves, but we can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us.

Impress us with the importance of seeking thee in secret. May we feel that the existence and vigour of principle are to be determined, not from occasional excitement, but from our habitual and ordinary state. Removed from every eye and ear but thine, may we read thy word, and meditate on its truths, examine ourselves, and pray unto our Father who seeth in secret, and may he reward us openly; in so subduing our *corruptions*, and strengthening our graces,

that we may be truly happy, and demonstrate to others the riches of his goodness. Teach us, O God, that no circumstances can exempt us from the obligation thus to serve thee. May we always connect with spiritual prosperity, sacred retirement; and never may we forget that apostacy begins at the closet-door.

Let thy blessing rest on the various occupations of this day. Smile upon our efforts to make suitable provision for ourselves, and to obtain something to bestow upon others. Some things have disturbed our minds, give them now tranquillity. While we examine the conduct of others, and commend or censure it as seems just, wherever we behold thine hand, may we adore thy righteousness, and wisdom, and love. Dispose us to obey the command, Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the heart, and then shall every man have praise of God.

We would not forget the hand that has ministered to our wants. It was thine, O our Father. Thine are our health, and food, and raiment, and friends; we praise thee for them, and pray to be preserved from abusing thy goodness, and from murmuring when thine ordinary favours are suspended or removed.

Wearied in body and mind we desire

repose, but thou alone canst bestow this blessing. Indulge us with it, O Lord; or if this be not accordant with thy will, compensate for the privation by a sense of thy love. Remember those for whom we are always solicitous. Nature binds us to many, and grace to more. The Lord be the defender and benefactor of them all. Are any of them ill? In all their afflictions do thou, O God, be afflicted, and let the angel of thy presence save them. Are any of them in prosperity? Lead them not into temptation, but deliver them from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

BLESSED be thou, Lord God of Israel, our Father, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. And yet, marvellous condescension! though two sparrows are sold for a farthing, one of them does not fall to the earth without our Father; and even the hairs *of our heads* are all numbered. We have been

preserved during another night, not because of our righteousness, but according to thy good pleasure, who hast never said to the seed of Jacob, seek ye me in vain. Thou, O Lord, hast heard our prayer, and granted our request; give us grace at this time to tell of thy mercy, and to utter thy praise.

Heaven alone is a state of freedom from necessity; while on earth we shall need constant donations from above, and we rejoice that so far from being restricted, we are commanded to pray without ceasing. Make us, O God, habitually devotional. Though we cannot always address thee in supplication, may we always have a disposition, a love to that exercise. May it appear before us not only as an incumbent duty, but as an exalted privilege. Urge us to its observance by the commands, the promises, and the examples of thy word; for thou givest power to the faint, and to them that have no might thou increasest strength.—Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but in waiting upon thee, we shall renew our strength, mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, and walk and not faint.

We would desire to begin this day with God. Who hath hardened himself against *thee and prospered?* Who ever trusted in

thee and was confounded? We would feel that all is injurious which bears thy curse, and that every thing is valuable which thy blessing accompanies. That this may be ours, may our thoughts, our feelings, and our actions accord with thy word. Experiencing its truth, may we adopt the Psalmist's language, The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul, the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple,—the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart, the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes,—the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever, the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. Whatever is revealed, give us grace to receive as the word of eternal truth; and whatever is hidden, may we patiently wait to have explained,—for secret things belong unto God.

O that we were more attracted by the unsearchable riches of Christ, and more affected by the sadness of our condition as sinners before thee! We would be empty, that we may be full; we would have nothing, that we may have all things; we would be fools, that we may be wise; we would die, that we may live. Take away all our self-righteousness; strip us of every human confidence; bring us sensible of our iniquity and destitution to thy feet; and gather to thyself honour, in enrich-

ing the poorest, in pardoning the guiltiest, and in saving the unworthiest of thy creatures. We bless thee that thou canst do this while all thy perfections harmonize. If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Help us now to honour thee in our calling. As no duty will be approved of God that appears before him stained with the murder of another duty, may we so arrange our secular affairs as not to interfere with those that are sacred; and so order those which are sacred as not to intrude unlawfully on those which are secular. It may be that we shall be assailed by unusual and violent temptations. Should the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, or the pride of life be excited, may they be conquered. While Satan, the father of lies, suggests what he thinks will draw us aside, may we oppose him as Jesus did, by the declarations of the oracles of God. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou us from secret faults. Keep back thy servants

also from presumptuous sins, let them not have dominion over us; then shall we be upright, and we shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

WE praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee; the Father everlasting. To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein. To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth.

We are indeed unworthy worshippers, but we adore thee, that we are not unwelcome. All the fitness thou requirest is to feel our need of thee. And we trust we do. We require thine hand to uphold our souls in life, to give us the food that perisheth, and to put from us the evils of which we shall otherwise be the prey. We want the wisdom which cometh from God, to direct us in the affairs of this world, that we may be kept from the dishonour into which

many fall,—that all our goings may be established, and that we may have a good name which is better than great riches. But, spiritually destitute as we are, to whom can we go but unto thee? Thou hast the words of eternal life. Lord, save, or we perish! God be merciful to us sinners! O thou who didst say in the last, the great day of the feast, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink, behold we come,—give unto us of the fountain of the water of life freely. O be it ours to choose that good part which shall never be taken from us. May the name of Christ be to us as ointment poured forth. May the person of Christ be in our esteem the perfection of loveliness. May the atonement of Christ be the only basis of our confidence. May the Spirit of Christ be a resident in our souls. May the statutes of Christ be our song in the house of our pilgrimage, and may the anticipation of his presence be the death of every murmur, and the fuel of every joy. O that we may be complete *in* him, as the all-sufficient Saviour, and may this be witnessed to ourselves, and to others, by our likeness *to* him! We rejoice that while he pitied our necessities, he came to restore us from the ruins of the fall. We cannot be happy here, nor could we be happy hereafter, if thy grace were to *leave us as it finds us.* We look for present

and future blessedness, to the subjugation and destruction of sin. O deliver us from this our greatest foe! Take from us all our iniquity, and give us a sure and certain hope that we shall be found among those who are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple.—Then shall we hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light upon us, nor any heat; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed us, and lead us unto living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes.

We pray, O Lord, that though we hope, we may fear; and that we may rejoice with trembling. At all times preserve us from thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. May a just view of our characters humble us before God, and induce us to cultivate the meekness and gentleness of Christ, especially becoming those who are so prone to infirmity and error and sin. Should we fall in this respect, restore our souls. O thou Shepherd of Israel, save us from their state whose haughty look precedes destruction, and whose proud spirit goes before a fall. May the time past of our lives suffice to have lived to ourselves, and to have served divers lusts and pleasures. Put an end to all our presumptuous and treacherous dealings, and grant us

new and contrite spirits, that we may tremble at thy presence, and hate and abandon every evil way. Attract to thyself, O Lord, the deepest thoughts of our minds, the choicest affections of our hearts, and the main tendencies and activities of our souls. Let us delight in attendance upon thee, and in communion with thee; nor let the vanities of this world divert us from thy service, or interrupt our spiritual enjoyments. Enable us always to war a good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience.

O Lord, we commit our bodies and souls to thy care, as weak and unworthy creatures, unable to defend ourselves, and undeserving thy protection. Accept our thanks for the favours we have received, and bring us, we humbly beseech thee, in safety to the beginning of another day, with an increased sense of obligation to thy providence and thy grace.

Graciously command thy blessing to fall on our relations, and neighbours, our friends, and if there be such, our enemies. Bless thy ministers, and prosper thy people. Succour the distressed, and in the time of their wealth save the prosperous.

Let thy grace, O Lord, our Saviour Jesus Christ, thine unchanging love, O thou Father of our mercies, thy delightful communion, *O holy, blessed,* and eternal Spirit, be with

us, and ours, and the whole Israel of God, this night and for evermore. *Amen.*

THURSDAY MORNING.

AGAIN, O Lord, we approach thy throne just as we are. We shall never come, if we wait for any state of mind that can merit thy regard. Truly the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. Innumerable transgressions crowd upon our minds whenever we recur to the past. Thou hast written to us the great things of thy law, and they have been counted a strange thing. Our stony hearts have sometimes been disposed to say, Who is the Almighty that we should serve him, and what profit should we have if we pray unto him? We will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth. But as he who keepeth the whole law, and yet offendeth in one point is guilty of all, we stand condemned by every act, and feeling, and thought. And we have sinned, O God, against thy gospel, as well as against the two tables of thy commands.

Behold, O Lord, thou requirest truth in the inmost parts, and hast called us to rend our hearts and not our garments, and to receive

promptly and gladly the testimony which thou hast given concerning thy Son. But alas! we have often trusted in lying words that cannot profit, saying, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are these; professing to know God, but in works denying him, having a form of godliness without the power; our tongues uttering error against the Lord, speaking hypocrisy, and practising the work of iniquity.—But who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, transgression and sin?

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ; —in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace. To this gracious Saviour we would constantly repair, and in him we would implicitly trust. Unite us to him by a living, and growing faith. May we abide in Him, and He in us. As without Him we can do nothing, from Him may our fruit be found, and may our Father be glorified by its beauty and abundance.

We are sensible, O God, that the fall which has left us without righteousness, has deprived us also of strength. How much devolves upon us, and we are as helpless as we are guilty! Our purposes and resolutions have been tried,

and all of them are vanity. Trusting in ourselves, we have been vanquished by the least temptation, and the future can be no better than the past. O that we may be strong in the Lord! At every step of our journey say to our souls, Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Save us, O Lord, from the hope of the hypocrite, for though he hath gained, what will he do when thou shalt take away his soul? Keep us from imposing on others, but especially from deceiving ourselves. May we not suppose that we are in Christ, while we are unlike Christ. Never may the truth be forgotten, that the eye of God passes from what is external to what is internal, and that the feet will be sound in his statutes, only as the heart is right in his sight. May our sincerity appear in our solicitude to know thy will, to deny ourselves, and to follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. O thou who art the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God, never say to us, I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot, I would thou wert cold or hot; so then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will cast thee out of

my mouth. O let every holy affection glow in our bosoms, and may we find it good to be zealously affected always in a good thing. Guard us, O God, against extremes. May the fire within genially warm, but never let it injure or destroy. Afford us the zeal that is according to knowledge, and forbid it to be controlled by ignorance and presumption. Grant that we may hear a word behind us, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when we turn to the right hand, and when we turn to the left. O lead us in the way of righteousness, in the *midst* of the paths of judgment.

While we thus implore present and future donations from God, we would gratefully adore him for those which have fallen, and are falling around us, and for ever may his name be magnified, through Jesus the Mediator. *Amen.*

THURSDAY EVENING.

MYRIADS of holy and happy spirits are now singing the song of Moses and the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. And we would emulate their spirit, and catch their theme.

Not one good thing has failed of all the Lord our God has spoken concerning us. Often hast thou led us by a way that we knew not, thou hast made darkness light before us, and crooked things straight, and rough places plain.

From thy past goodness, O thou unchangeable Jehovah, we are encouraged to rely on thy grace for hours and days to come. Enable us, O God, to do this implicitly, without the misgivings of unbelief, or the agitations of a feeble trust. In things secular and sacred, may we be as diligent in the use of all suitable means as if we could do every thing, and as dependant on thee as if we did nothing. At all times may we obey the charge, Seek ye my face. Suffer us not to be depressed when answers to our petitions are delayed, knowing that thy time is the best. And should we receive them in a form which we have not anticipated, preserve us from murmuring; may a conviction of thy wisdom and love silence every objection, and awaken our souls to ardent gratitude.

May we be the seed which the Lord hath blessed. Make the language of the prophet ours,—I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God, for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with a robe of righteousness,

is a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For this happiness may we gladly obey all thy words, and submit to the operation of the Holy Spirit. O thou Searcher of hearts, enable us to prostrate our souls at thy throne, ready to take hold of thy covenant and strength, that we make peace with thee, and that thou mayest make peace with us. Thou God of mercy, look down upon us, and blot out our transgressions, and remember our iniquities no more. Behold, O Lord, our shield, and thine Anointed, and for his sake be very gracious unto us. We rejoice that it pleased the Father that in Christ should all fulness dwell. Glory be to him who has made peace by the blood of his cross, who has reconciled all things unto himself, whether they be things on earth, or things in heaven. May we who were sometime alienated and enemies in our mind by wicked works be fully reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, that we may be presented holy, and unblameable, and unreproveable in his sight. Grant that we may be strong, and of good courage, that we may observe to do according to all the laws which the Lord our God hath commanded us, never turning from them to the right hand or to the left,—for the Lord is

good to them that wait for him, and to the soul that seeketh him.

We thank thee, O Lord, that whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Possessing this treasure, may we hold forth the word of life. In our several spheres may the beams we receive from the Sun of Righteousness be reflected on others. Feeling that it is a godlike privilege to save, may we pant to be useful. O that our course may furnish a living exposition of the truth as it is in Jesus. Let our principles be so pure, our passions so controlled, our dispositions so heavenly, and our efforts so benevolent, that all may *see*, though they *hear* not the reality and excellency of vital godliness.

Mercifully regard, O Lord, our various connexions. Dear are they to us by the claims of nature and of friendship, make them all more dear by the claims of thy grace. We ask not for them this world's honours,—but number them, we entreat thee, with thy people on earth, with thy saints in glory everlasting. O let every one of them exclaim in sincerity and truth, How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel; let me die the death of the righteous, and may my last end be like his!

May the memory of us all be blessed. Save us from the dishonour and the guilt of the indolent, the selfish, the injurious, who pass from this world undeplored, or at whose deaths there is shouting; and let God be glorified in us through life, and in our departure hence.

We lament, O God, that a world so full of thy goodness, is so empty of thy praise. Let every creature in heaven and in the earth give glory to God for ever and ever. Bless the Lord ye his angels that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening to the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord all ye his hosts, ye ministers of his that do his pleasure. Bless the Lord all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O our souls. *Amen.*

FRIDAY MORNING.

O THOU high and holy One, we would humble ourselves before thy glorious Majesty. Thou, even thou, art greatly to be feared; and who may stand in thy sight when thou art angry? Teach us at all times to tremble at thy wrath, which thou hast revealed against all ungodliness, and unrighteousness

of men. We deserve its visitation, but we pray that thou wouldst not gather us with sinners, or appoint our portion in the world of woe. Hitherto we have been, adored be thy name, the monuments of thy mercy, and we would desire that the goodness of God may lead us to repentance. O that a view of Him who was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and who was dumb as a sheep before her shearers, may be the means of producing in us a godly sorrow. Save us from the sorrow of the world which led to the desperation of Cain, and Saul, and Ahithophel, and Judas, and let ours be that of the Corinthian church. May we be careful to rectify whatever is amiss, —indignant at ourselves for past offences,— fearful lest the evils we have deplored should again occur,—desirous of constantly increasing in purity, and zealous for the honour of Jesus Christ our Lord. So long as we sin may we be found repenting; and until we see the King in his beauty and glory, may we live, and walk, and stand by faith.

Grant, O Lord, that we may not be in Christ merely by an union that is visible and professional, but by one that is real and vital. May we be *in* him as we are in Adam, *in* him as Noah and his family were in the ark, *in* him as the manslayer was in the city of refuge, *in* him as the branches

are in the living vine, *in* him as the members of the human body are in the head. Thus may we find that the kingdom of God does not consist in meats, and drinks, in any thing ceremonial, but in righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. And when others behold us, may the operation of divine grace attract their attention, awaken their solicitude for themselves, and lead to the earnest and persevering pursuit of all spiritual blessings. While we would not sound a trumpet before us as the hypocrites do, we would pray to be kept from a sinful timidity, and from denying in any way what God has done for our souls. As a word spoken in season is good, and like apples of gold in pictures of silver, may our words be seasoned with salt, and minister grace to the hearers. Enable us especially to watch over our tempers. Teach us that what many regard in this respect as their misfortune, is their sin. Whenever we are conscious of an unsuitable state of feeling, give us ability to determine whether it is the offspring of pride, or malice, or revenge, or selfishness, or any other evil; and may every discovery of inward corruption, be followed by its confession, and hatred, and avoidance. Preserve us from the influence of the dreadful error that God sees no sin in his people. May we feel, O Lord, that thou

seest all things just as they are, that nothing can escape thine observation, that every thing in thy sight appears in its true character, and that thou wilt visit the backslider with a rod, and his iniquity with stripes.

O teach us that every Christian is a temple of the living God. May we learn that what involves but an ordinary degree of criminality in others, in him partakes of the nature of sacrilege. Ever strengthen us to watch and pray, that our hearts may be suitable residences of the holy and blessed God. O that having such great and precious promises, we may cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord!

Thou, O Lord, hast determined the bounds of our habitation; and in the order of thy providence, many of those in whose friendship and affection we delight are separated from us. Though absent in body, we are often present in spirit, and at thy footstool we would frequently desire to meet. O spare them in thy mercy; may we embrace each other in health and comfort, if it be thy will; and if not, may we meet in that world where parting is unknown.

May our sense of obligation to thee, our Father, increase with every interposition in *our behalf*, and may the gentleness of thy

goodness be continued unto us. To the care which has watched over us through another night, we resign ourselves in prospect of the duties and events of this day. Let thy presence go with us, thy blessing attend us, and thy rod and staff comfort us, for the sake of Him, who is our only hope, and whom we would always regard with supreme affection, even Jesus the Mediator. *Amen.*

FRIDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but wouldst rather that he turn from his wickedness and live, and hast declared and pronounced to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins;—grant unto us this blessing, we humbly and earnestly entreat thee. Our offences are manifold, and great, and aggravated. In innumerable instances we have all offended thee. Of pride, of hardness of heart, of neglect of thy providence and word, as well as of impenitence, we have been guilty. But as the transgressions of the people of Israel were carried into the wilderness, to a land not inhabited, may Jesus the Surety of his followers,

bear ours away. Graciously impute our iniquities to him, and his merits to us. And shouldst thou answer our prayer, and remove our transgressions from thy book, may we have them in constant remembrance. Though thou art pleased to bind up the broken-hearted, may we not cease to lament and abhor the cause of our sorrows. May we have an abiding conviction of the exceeding sinfulness of sin; perceiving it to be evil in its nature, as well as in its consequences.

O how great is our mercy that whereas we cannot, by our best services, make any satisfaction for what is past, we can flee to thy cross, O Lamb of God, who hast made there, by the one oblation of thyself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world! Help us, blessed Jesus, to rejoice, that there is in thee also a provision for future necessities. Though thou hast already conducted many sons to glory, thy resources continue the same. There is the same efficacy in thy blood, the same power in thine arm, the same love in thy heart, the same prevalence in thine intercession as there ever was;—and in all these we pray that we may daily and hourly have an interest. O that we were more powerfully and permanently affected by thine all-sufficiency, that *this might* save us from many unworthy

thoughts and apprehensions, induce us to present more fervent and comprehensive petitions, and enable us to return unto thee according to thy benefits! Number us with those of whom thou art saying, I am glorified in them. May we be trees of the Lord's right-hand planting. Form us for thyself, that we may shew forth thy praise. May we not only *be* Christians, but *appear* such; not only believe with the heart, but confess with the mouth; not only hold fast the reality, but the profession of our faith without wavering. May we be willing, also, if accordant with thy dispensations, to suffer as well as to do. Forbid that any of us should suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busy body in other men's matters. Yet if we suffer as Christians, let us not be ashamed, but let us glorify God in this behalf, and remember that they are counted happy who endure. Would that we lived as those who are not their own! Thou, O Saviour, hast redeemed us by thy death, and we would yield thee all that thou hast purchased.

Accept, we beseech thee, our talents and our time, our bodies and our souls, all we have, and all we can obtain; and may we cordially consent to be any thing or nothing, so that thou mayst be honoured. When thou shalt *come to be* glorified in thy saints, and *to be admired* in all them that believe, may

we be among them. While sojourners and strangers on earth, may we have some foretastes of the joys of our Father's house; enough to cheer our hearts and quicken our steps, but not enough to make us indifferent to our duties, or indisposed to wait patiently the appointed time of our dismissal.

The toils of the day urge us now to seek repose, indulge us with tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep. We thank thee for the provision so kindly made for our exhausted frames. Exert in our behalf, O Lord, thy protecting power. Make us to dwell in safety. Till we sink into forgetfulness, or in the interruptions of slumber, may we dwell in holy thought on that state where we shall feel no languor or fatigue,—where there shall be no night, and they need no candles, neither light of the sun,—for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign for ever and ever. We ask it, O God, in the name and for the sake of Jesus. *Amen.*

SATURDAY MORNING.

O GOD! the Author of our being, and the supporter of our lives, we would this morning raise our hearts and voices unto thee. It is

good for us to draw near thy throne, for there thou favourest thy servants with the highest earthly happiness;—and it is our duty as well as our privilege, because thou hast enjoined that men pray every where lifting up holy hands. But how shall we give unto thee the honour that is thy due? All that we have is unworthy thy regard; and our best offerings serve only to remind us of thy condescension and goodness in accepting them. Not for our sakes, O Lord, not for our sakes, dost thou pardon and bless us from day to day, but because thy mercy is like thine existence, from everlasting to everlasting; and because thou hast a constant regard to the ransom which Christ has given for our souls. For his sake, O Lord, continue to us all our blessings, and be gracious to us, even as thou art to thy chosen people. Grant, we beseech thee, that the greatness of thy compassion in Christ Jesus may ever triumph over the multitude of our sins, and that our prayers and praises, defiled as they are, may, through his most precious blood, daily enter with acceptance into thine ears, O Lord of hosts. All our thanksgivings fall infinitely short of adequate acknowledgment of thy love as displayed in thy Son. We trace thy benevolence around us and within us, but in Jesus it beams upon us with unparalleled splendour. O let it be

impressed upon all our hearts that the rejection of Him who is offered to us in the gospel will be accompanied by awful guilt; and that if we persist in so doing, it will be followed by the heaviest woes.

Awaken us to anxious inquiry as to our actual condition before thee our God. Keep us from the delusion of supposing ourselves Christians from our birth, or our baptism, or our outward connexion with the godly. Never may we regard the external observance of thine ordinances as the piety of which they are only the channels and the means. Teach us that in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but faith that worketh by love. Unite us, O God, to all those who worship thee in the spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. And grant us clearer views of the fulness of Christ. In it may we behold a sea which cannot be fathomed. Preserve us from the supposition that in Him all blessings are to remain; and enable us to look to him as the source from which we may receive whatever is good. Make it our joy that he lives not only to possess, but to bestow. From him may we obtain grace for grace. By his stripes may we be healed, in his righteousness may we be exalted, and in his name may we rejoice.

Give us, O God, the victory over all our spiritual foes. Defend our souls especially from all the power and stratagems of the evil one. Be our shepherd, our help, our sword, our mighty redeemer. May the Lord be our spiritual habitation at all times, and our refuge in the day of conflict. O shelter us in the time of danger; place underneath us thine everlasting arms in the hour of deep distress; and through all the changing scenes of life may we prove that in the Father of lights is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Forget not, O God of providence, to supply our temporal wants. We need thy favours, as creatures, as well as sinners. If it please thee, let thy blessing rest upon our toils. Give us the precious things of the earth, and the fulness thereof, which are brought forth by the rains and dews of heaven, and are put forth by the sun and the moon, through their influence on the mountains, the hills, and the valleys. But this we would ask with reservation; for we know not what is good for us. If thy favours increase, let our humility and gratitude be augmented also; and if they are diminished, or denied, help us to believe that it is in mercy to our souls.

Be our preserver, O God, in the worldly occupations we are about to resume. Suffer us not to be unduly agitated by any thing

that may occur this day. We have found it well to begin, and to close a week in peace. Let the evening find us prepared for our domestic and private exercises. O save us from that criminal neglect, that indifference to watchfulness and prayer, of which we have been often guilty, which has made us fear to enter thy presence,—which has pierced our hearts with sorrow, and which has covered our faces with shame.

Favourably regard our beloved connexions, and let thy bestowments be adapted to their various necessities. And may each of us join, both now, and in heaven, in ascribing blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever. *Amen.*

SATURDAY EVENING.

AT the close of the week we would come into thy presence, O Lord our God, with feelings always appropriate to thy service, but now peculiarly suitable. A thousand thoughts rush into our minds as we review the days that are past; and we would entreat that they may be acceptable before thee, and *profitable* to us. How numerous have been

our mercies! The powers of our bodies, and the faculties of our minds have been the objects of thy care. Our domestic comforts and our social advantages are secure, because thou hast preserved them from every disturber, and destroyer. Not one good thing hast thou taken from us; while on us thou hast poured blessings numerous as our moments. And shall we forget thy long-suffering, and thy goodness, O our Father? Enkindle our gratitude, awaken us to thankfulness, and let not thy benefits die without praises. Unworthy are our offerings, O make them sincere; polluted are our sacrifices, but we trust we would yield thee all we possess.

We would remember, O God, our faults at this hour. How much have we omitted that ought to have been done! We have not rendered thee the love thou demandest, nor improved the privileges thou hast granted us, nor discharged the duties committed to our care. And alas! we have done much that is evil. So corrupt have some of our thoughts and feelings been, that we could not tell them to our dearest earthly friend;—they would pierce him with pain, and load us with dishonour.

What then shall we say unto thee, O Lord, who hast been near us, who hast seen us

altogether, and who hast penetrated the deep recesses of our hearts, and beheld all that has arisen there, and all that has been matured? Truly we are vile, so grievously to transgress; and most righteously might we whose sins partake of so many aggravations, be driven from thy presence. But, O indulge us with another proof that thou art boundless in mercy. Favour us with a token for good. Say to our souls, I am thy salvation. Sprinkle us afresh with pardoning blood. Purify us wholly in the all-cleansing fountain which thou hast opened. Address us, gracious Redeemer, as thou didst the leper, I will, be thou clean; and as thou didst the penitent woman, Go and sin no more.

Our confessions teach us that around us is an evil world, and within us many corruptions. We are not only rational, but animal creatures; we have not only an immaterial spirit, but a material body having many inlets to the soul, and susceptible of impression from every thing external—give us grace to keep our senses diligently.—In consequence of sin, the sensual part of our nature often gains the ascendancy over the intellectual—O let us habitually feel our weakness, and look to the strong for strength. In danger as we are from our dress, our food, *our calling*, our connexions, from what is

sinful, and from what is lawful, may we not be high-minded, but fear. Teach us, O God, that a man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed;—that when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin, and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death. As a prayerless heart is as a defenceless citadel lying open and exposed to the incursion of every foe, and the heart of one truly devout is like a castle in which the Lord dwells, and which is garrisoned by his presence,—enable us always to pray, and not to faint. With a judgment corrected by thee, may we discriminate between the gift of prayer, and the grace of prayer. May it not be enough for us to bow the knee, and to employ the language of devotion; but may we hold the most intimate, delightful, and purifying communion with God.

And now we have done with an ensnaring world professedly, let it be shut out from our minds, and let our hearts be preserved from its influence. For a season we cannot do what remains undone, or repair that in which we have erred; may we therefore guard against cares which are both useless and criminal.

Take charge of our affairs, O Lord our God; sustain the burden which we cast upon thee, until it is our duty to bear it again; and

be with us as a family, and with all our connexions, as a protector, and a friend. Indulge us with the light of thy countenance in the morning, and with a day of rest after a night of repose, for the sake of our exalted and gracious Intercessor. *Amen.*

FOURTH WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O THOU God of the Sabbath, of souls, and of eternity, we would unite in supplication, and in praise to thee. We bless thee for an institution which shews thy concern for our present and everlasting welfare, as well as thine authority; for while this is the Lord's day, we are taught that it was made for man. We bless thee that our lives are spared, that we are not doomed by accident or disease to pass a solitary Sabbath, and that we have ability, and opportunity to meet with thy people in the house of prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that holy awe may now

pervade our minds. Impress upon our hearts the solemn thought that our privileges will not leave us as they find us; that improved, they will be our greatest blessings; that abused, they will bring upon us a heavy, a grievous curse.

O let thy good Spirit cleanse our springs of thought and feeling; and so direct and control all our powers, that our engagements may be conducive to thy glory and our advantage. Preserve us from sinning with many who think that a part of this holy season is enough to devote to thine honour; and that external observances meet thy requirements. May we yield thee, O God, all its hours and its moments, and call on our souls and all that is within us to obey thy voice, and render homage to the Lord. May the petitions we utter be truly devout; may our hearts glow with gratitude as praises arise from our lips; and may our humility be deep, and our contrition be unfeigned. Indulged with the simple and affectionate preaching of the gospel, we would cry, Shew us thy ways, O Lord, teach us thy paths, lead us in thy truth, and teach us; unveil our eyes, and we shall behold wondrous things out of thy law. That the things advanced in the sanctuary may be useful, may we carry them to our retirement, there to examine

them by thy sacred oracles, to apply them to our own characters and circumstances, and to commend them to thy blessing, for thy word shall accomplish what thou pleasest, and prosper in the thing whereto thou hast sent it.

Eternal Spirit, present to us the truths which relate to the mediation of Christ and the riches of his grace in so penetrating and transforming a manner, as to render them vital, operating principles,—the food and the solace of our souls. Let us feed on the true bread which cometh down from heaven. With joy may we draw water out of the wells of salvation. O make us to hunger and thirst after righteousness that we may be filled.

Assist thy servants, O Lord, who will minister this day in holy things, and make them successful in all their efforts for the instruction and edification of the souls committed to their care. May they watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of evangelists, and make full proof of their ministry. Especially aid him who labours among us in the word and doctrine. Convert, we beseech thee, thousands to the faith; and help all who have commenced a profession of religion to continue steadfast in the truth. Smile upon those who have long been

numbered among thy faithful people. Increase their faith, revive their hope, animate their joys, enable them to look on death without trembling, and on the grave without dismay. Despise not the prisoners of thy providence. Follow those who are unable to follow thee; and while forbidden to hear the preaching of the word, may they hear the voice of the rod, and have cause to acknowledge that affliction is good. On our country shower down all temporal and spiritual blessings. May violence be no more heard in our land, or wasting and destruction within our borders; but may our walls be called salvation, and our gates praise.

Bless, O God, our king, and all in authority. May those that rule over men be just, ruling in the fear of the Lord. May they be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after the rain. And by the ordinances of religion and the dispensations of thy providence, may that period come when the church which Jesus has purchased shall appear, not as it does now, attended by the imperfections of its members, and wounded by its professed friends, but fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners:—and

to Him who is its founder, its supporter, its defender, be honours endless as his being. *Amen.*

SUNDAY EVENING.

WHO in the heavens can be compared unto thee, O Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto our God? No energy can resist thy power; no gifts can diminish thy bounty; no difficulty can perplex thy wisdom; and innumerable as are thy dependants, thine ear is never weary with their addresses at thy feet. To assure our hearts before thee, thou hast not only commanded us to seek thee, but thou hast furnished us with the prayers and praises it becomes us to offer; and for this we bless thee. As thine ancient people brought unto thee the best of their flocks and herds, enable us to yield thee our bodies a living sacrifice. O let not sin reign in our mortal bodies, that we should obey it in the lusts thereof; but let our members be instruments of righteousness unto God.

We thank thee, O Lord, if thine ordinances have not been unprofitable to our

souls, but channels through which thou hast replenished us, and means by which we have enjoyed fellowship with the Father of our spirits, and with his beloved Son. We lament that our improvement is so little, and for what we have made we would gratefully adore thee. O let all the services of this Sabbath be followed by thy benediction, and may a savour of divine things be left on our spirits, and diffused through our conversation.

While thy word asks, Will a man rob God? may we feel that we are verily guilty; that we have robbed thee by every unsuitable temper and disposition—by every act of selfishness—by every neglect of thy commands—by the indolence that paralyzes our powers—by the avarice that locks up our sympathies,—and by the worldliness that veils the likeness to the Saviour, which we sometimes hope we bear. Go on, we beseech thee, to be gracious. Forsake not the work of thine own hands; and enable us practically to remember our obligations, and to glorify thy name.

Bless, O our God, those who are placed at the head of this family, and qualify us for the discharge of all our duties. O that religion may prosper in our own souls, that we may be useful as well as happy! By precept and example, by government and discipline, by attendance on public means and by domestic

devotion, may we train up our children in the way that they should go. Preserve us from the sin of Eli, whose sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not; and from the offence of David, who never displeased Adonijah by saying, Why hast thou done this? Save us too from provoking them to wrath lest they be discouraged; and honour us as instruments of introducing them to the strait and narrow path which leadeth unto life. We ask not great things for them of a worldly nature; give them, if it please thee, health of body, soundness of mind, and food and raiment: but bless them, O bless them with all spiritual blessings, and let us embrace them at the right hand of the Judge of the whole earth.

Hear, O thou that hearest and answerest prayer, the supplications that have ascended to thee this day, from our closets, our family altar, and thine house. If we have implored what would be injurious, let it be mercifully withheld; and as we have failed to ask much that we need, graciously bestow it. Dispose of us, thou unerring God, according to the dictates of thy wisdom, and make us contented and satisfied with all thine allotments. Return into the bosom of thy servant to whom we have listened a thousand fold, for his work of faith and labour of love.

Make his mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of thine hand do thou hide him; and let him be in thy quiver a polished shaft. By his means may many be brought to thee; and though some of his flock be not gathered, may he be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and may God be his strength.

Remove, most merciful Father, the imperfections and sins of our holy things from thy book of remembrance. Be our protector till we are permitted to renew our petitions for thy defence and guidance. If we have a portion in the world, may we have also a portion in our God. Never may we look for that in the creature which is only to be found in the Creator; nor for that on earth which is only to be found in heaven. We ask it for the sake of the great and only Saviour. *Amen.*

MONDAY MORNING.

O THOU Eternal Spirit of grace and of supplication, be pleased to help our infirmities at this time; and to make intercession for us, according to the will of God. Ever may we feel our dependance on thy gracious power. If we call Jesus Lord; if the love of God is

shed abroad in our hearts; if we abound in hope; it is the result of thine operation. Thine influences are still essential to our spiritual well-being as the vital air is to our natural life; and most earnestly would we pray that they may be afforded until we receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.

With the impressions that were produced, and the feelings that were excited and invigorated by the engagements of the Sabbath, enable us, O Lord, to pass through our secular concerns. We thought we felt in thy temple something more of the vanity of things seen and temporal—something more of the glory of those which are unseen and eternal; may we now give evidence that we did not deceive ourselves.

O God of Abraham, make us strong in faith, giving glory to thee. May we come out from the world and be separate, and not touch the unclean thing. Make us proof against all the allurements of sense; having our treasure in heaven, and our hearts there also. Grant that we may contemplate with steadfast look, the heavenly land to which believers are hastening. Never let the enticements of the world, once abandoned, induce us to return. Give us grace to choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a

season, and to esteem highly the reproach of Christ, having respect to the recompence of the reward.

We know nothing of what is in reserve for us, and it is well we do not. It is enough for us that we are encouraged to ask for whatever we need. One favour we would therefore especially implore. Prepare us for every event that is about to transpire; and let it issue in our spiritual advantage, and in thy glory, and all will be well. If thou intendest to prosper us in worldly things, do thou bestow them at the time in which we shall deeply feel their value, adore thine hand, and devote them to our Father and our God.

And if thou purposest to remove some favour we have prized, may the privation meet us fully impressed with thy right to do what thou wilt with thine own; and with the folly, the presumption, the uselessness of wishing it to be according to our mind. O let us be more concerned to discharge our present duties, and to leave with thee all that is future. Free us from gloomy cares, and fearful forebodings; and let us have the happy serenity of him who is not afraid of evil tidings; whose heart is fixed, trusting in God.

We lament, O Lord, our evil ways, and we remember and confess our doings that are

not good. Our iniquities are loathsome in thy sight, help us to hate them with a perfect hatred. Oppressed by their weight, may we rejoice that we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and that he is the propitiation for our sins. To him therefore enable us to repair from time to time; may his voice address our troubled consciences, and while he says, Peace, be still, may they immediately obey him.

O hear our desires, most merciful God. Behold, we inquire of thee, and diligently seek thee, that thou wouldst do these things for us. We plead no merits of our own; we plead only our lost and helpless state, the obedience and sufferings of Jesus Christ our Lord, and the glory of thy great name. Hast thou not declared that thou wilt be found of us? What thou hast promised, do thou most graciously perform.

Glory be to thee, O heavenly Father, for all the discoveries of thy grace. Where sin abounded, there grace has much more abounded. Judgment was by one to condemnation; but the free gift is of many offences to justification. By one's disobedience many were made sinners, but by the obedience of one many are made righteous. For this we would give thanks unto thee, O Lord, *and sing* praises unto thy name. Let them

proceed not from feigned lips, but from grateful hearts. May the strain be carried on through the days and years of our pilgrimage; may it rise high in the hour of death, and be resumed with the multitudes before thy throne. *Amen* and *Amen.*

MONDAY EVENING.

OUR souls would magnify the Lord, and our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour; for he hath regarded our low estate. He that is mighty hath done great things for us, and holy is his name. His mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm, he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. And the interpositions of the Lord in our behalf call aloud for our confidence as well as our praise. To thee, therefore, may we look with sincerity this night, thou Source of all good. As thou art in Christ, reconciling the world unto thyself, impute not our trespasses unto us; but may we be made the righteousness of God in him. While *He invites the* labouring and heavy-laden to

come unto Him, and promises that him that cometh he will in no wise cast out, may we gratefully avail ourselves of his proffered blessings.

O make us more acquainted with the way of salvation by the great Mediator whom thou hast set forth; and help us humbly to acquiesce in it, and thankfully to submit to the righteousness of God. May our minds be fixed on the great object we are encouraged to approach, and on the unrestricted invitation that assures us of a welcome at his feet. Instead of waiting to prepare ourselves for access to God, may we learn that it is on account of the finished work of Jesus, exclusive of any human exercises and efforts, for which He justifies a sinner; and that true consolation flows alone from faith in Christ. Grant us grace to repose, O Lord, our confidence in the Lamb of God, that believing, we may have life through his name. Forbid that we should lose one of the blessings which he has purchased. Awaken our desires to be personally as well as relatively holy; that while we stand accepted before thee by the imputation of his merits, this may be evident to the world by the renewal of our minds. Pure for his sake, in thy sight, may we be pure in the view of men by the operation of his grace. Let not our faith be that

which makes void the law, but that which establishes the law.

Preserve us, O God, from a temporizing spirit. Save us from the guilt and condemnation of those by whose means the way of truth is evil spoken of, and the holy name blasphemed by which they are called;—who by gross inconsistencies, perplex the weak and distress the strong;—who harden the wicked in their iniquity, and lead some to imagine that religion is only hypocrisy. May we not be nominally but really Christians; and may the operation of our principles be not occasional, but unceasing. Bestow upon us, O God, the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Never may we be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord, but esteem it an honour to be a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God, who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Merciful Father, let the bounties of thy providence still accompany the gifts of thy grace. Bestow upon us, health and strength, food and raiment, the delights of friendship, and the endearments of affection; or, if these would ensnare and destroy us, withhold

them in mercy; or give us grace to resign them, patiently submitting to thy will, and devoutly adoring thy wisdom.

And now, we humbly commend ourselves, and all that we have, to thy defence. We know that by reason of wickedness and weakness, we are exposed to many and great dangers; but we trust that thou wilt sustain us. O be with us through the night season, and grant that our frail nature being refreshed, and our decayed strength renewed, we may rise better prepared for the duties that await us. And as thou daily multipliest thy mercies to us, increase also our convictions of obligation to thee, and renew us daily after thine image; so that every day may make us fitter for the enjoyment of thy glory, which thou hast prepared for them that love thee.

And now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be all honour, and glory, and praise, and thanksgiving, henceforth and for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

TUESDAY MORNING.

WE will extol thee our God O King, and bless thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise his works unto another, and shall declare his mighty acts. Give ear to our words, O Lord, consider our meditation; hearken unto the voice of our cry, for unto thee will we pray.

Grant unto us, we entreat thee, correct views of this sacred exercise. Teach us that if we regard iniquity in our hearts the Lord will not hear us. That we may not be disregarded, may we never ask what is in itself evil,—never indulge any corrupt feeling,—never employ words at variance with our sentiments,—never conceal any known iniquity,—never aim at what thou wilt disapprove,—and never neglect the mediation of Christ, or the influences of the Holy Spirit.

While by nature we refuse to know God, to hear his words, to walk in his ways, we have walked after the imagination of our own hearts, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, for frowardness is in our hearts continually, and we are a stubborn and rebellious generation. We have panted after

the dust of the earth, and been full of care about what we should eat, and what we should drink, and wherewithal we should be clothed; and alas, our desires have been cold, and our efforts feeble after the kingdom of God and his righteousness. We will therefore acknowledge and confess our transgressions before thee, that for thy name and mercy's sake, thou mayest forgive the iniquity of our sin. Truly we deserve wrath at thine hand, but we gather hope from thy words, How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? How shall I deliver thee, Israel? How shall I make thee as Admah? How shall I set thee as Zeboim? Mine heart is turned within me; my repentings are kindled together; I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger; I will not return to destroy Ephraim; for I am God, and not man;—I will surely have mercy, saith the Lord.

O deal not with us after our desert, but according to our necessity. Let the blessings of the cross supply all our wants. It is thy pleasure that we seek thee. The desires we feel thou hast produced. We are willing to be saved in thine own way. We love thy salvation as it is free, and secures to thyself the undivided glory; and we love it as it is holy, and designed to save us from the power as well as the penalty of sin. O let us

partake individually of its rich provisions; of its purity, and its peace; of its hopes, and its joys; of its blessedness on earth, and its glories in heaven. Let the mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus; who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners; who came down from heaven not to do his own will, but the will of him who sent him; and who, though he were a son, yet learned obedience by the things that he suffered. When sinners entice, may we not consent. Suffer no temptation but that which is common to overtake us, and with it, make a way for our escape. Being born of God, while in the world may we be kept from its evil, and prove that this is the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith. And although Satan should desire to have us that he may sift us as wheat, may the great High Priest intercede in our behalf, and enable us to overcome the wicked one, through the word of his power.

By thy mercy we renew, this morning, the consecration of ourselves to thy service. Go forth with us into the concerns of the day. Let not mercy and truth forsake us; may we bind them about our necks, and write them upon the tables of our hearts, so that we may find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

We extend our wishes far beyond the little circle now bowing in thy presence. We have absent connexions endeared to our hearts. O place them under thine agency as the God of grace; and keep them under thy care as the God of providence. Wherever thou hast caused grief, may it please thee to have compassion. Thou dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men; grant to the suffering thy support; indulge them with the joy of thy salvation; and uphold them with thy free spirit. We rejoice to know that the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. God of peace, bruise Satan under our feet shortly. Soon may a loud voice be heard in heaven, saying, Now is come salvation and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God, day and night. We ask it for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

TUESDAY EVENING.

O God, the hope of Israel, and Saviour thereof in time of trouble, be not unto us as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man

that turneth aside to tarry for a night. Thou hast established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, that from generation to generation, thy children may set their hope in thee. Blessed, truly blessed is the man whose hope the Lord is; and, through the Spirit, may we wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. O look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thine holiness and of thy glory, and say, thou Lord God Almighty, to all before thee, I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters. Write upon us thy new name, the name of our God, and the name of the city of our God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from our God; a name which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it; and with this, give us a right to all its blessings and privileges. We trust we have some convictions, that while we may desire many things, these are absolutely necessary. While we seek lawfully what will contribute to the support and comfort of life, may our grand inquiry be, What must we do to be saved? Be unto us the God of salvation. Visit us in the illumination of the mind, and the sanctification of the life; in all the comforts, and in all the fruits of the Spirit. In the destruction of self-will, and in the dispositions of implicit devotedness, may we ask

as to every truth, what has God revealed? and as to every duty, Lord, what wilt thou have us to do? With the allotments of thy providence may we be satisfied; and do thou enable us to accommodate ourselves to them, and to maintain, in passing through them, a temper that is Christian.

Strengthen us, O Lord, to mortify the deeds of the body. May we be crucified with Christ, so that naturally alive to the world and sin, we may die to both. In the light in which things appear to thee, let them appear to us. Suffer nothing that thou art pleased with, to displease us, nor any thing to be esteemed as lovely which thou hatest. Though some corruptions are dear as a right hand or a right eye, may we pant for their destruction; and though the work thou hast assigned us be painful and unceasing, be thou with us, and it shall be promptly and gladly performed. O that we may say in the full assurance of faith, although our house be not as it should be with God, for many imperfections, infirmities, and sins cleave to us, yet hath he made with us an everlasting covenant, well ordered in all things and sure; and this is all our salvation, and all our desire. And knowing that we are made partakers of Christ, by holding the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, let us be both

diligent and constant in our observance of all the commandments of the Lord. Whatsoever we do, may we do it heartily as unto the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord we shall receive the reward of the inheritance.

Help us, thou Spirit of truth, to study the Scriptures, which contain the true sayings of God,—which shew us what is good, and what is required of us,—which set before us life and death, blessing and cursing,—and which entreat us to choose life that we may live. We would not add, neither would we take away from this divine depository; but we would receive every truth in the love of it, and as the infallible standard of faith and practice. O may it be more and more a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path; and may it guide us through all the intricacies of this changing world to the eternal city of our God.

The shades of evening remind us that the shadows of death will soon visit our eyes. Give us grace to improve the monition. Enable us to perform our duties, to endure our trials, to repel our spiritual adversaries, and to improve our privileges, as dying creatures. O let the last messenger be an expected visitant, and one for whose arrival we have devoutly prepared. Resting on Him who spoiled principalities and *powers*, and made a shew of them openly,

triumphing over them, may we destroy the enemy we have often feared. Through Him may we be more than conquerors; and may his prayer be answered in our experience, Father, I will that those whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory. Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord God of truth, and therefore into thine hands we commit ourselves and our interests, beseeching thee to do for us exceeding abundantly above all we are able to ask or think, through our only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

WE dare not draw nigh unto thee, O Lord, like the Pharisee, thanking thee that we are not as other men, extortioners, unjust, and impure; for we are constrained to confess, that we have transgressed. We would rather approach thee with the Publican who smote on his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. Thou hast often addressed us by conscience, by thy providence, and by thy word; and we blush to think that we have ever *heard thy* calls with indifference;—we lament

that we have said in our hearts, if not with our lips, Go thy way for this time, we will obey thee at a more convenient season. And will the Lord be merciful unto us, and not reward us according to our iniquities? Wilt thou bestow upon us the godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto life? We are persuaded that without an interest in Christ we can have no solid peace in this world, nor pleasing hope of that which is to come; and therefore it is our hearts desire and prayer before God, that we may be enabled to accept of Him as he is freely offered to us in the gospel. As none can trust in Him without the exertion of thy power, draw us unto Him. O gracious Father, enable us to repair to the shadow of his cross, and there may we find security and relief, refreshment and delight. Assure us of an interest in thy favour, which is life; support us unceasingly with thy mighty arm; and clothe us with thine image, which is the beauty and dignity of the soul.

Grant, O God, that our solicitude to share in thy love may be constantly kept alive. May it operate in the business of the world as well as in the moments of retirement; and through the days of the week as well as through the hours of the Sabbath. If attended by others in our Christian course, may we sincerely rejoice; but when con-

viction derived from thy word excites us to advance, may we go forward, though we do so alone. Like Caleb, the servant of the Most High, may we follow the Lord *fully;* and, with Joshua, say to all around us, Choose you whom you will serve—but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Help us to use all thy bestowments lawfully. May we never render to the gift the regard which is due alone to the giver. Teach us that though many things are to be esteemed as blessings, thou art our God; that thou hast an exclusive claim on supreme affection, and that our guilt will be great, if heedless of this, we make any object our idol.

O that we could always feel that this is not our home, that it becomes us to hold our mercies with a loose hand, and that for uninterrupted peace we must wait till we have passed the narrow stream of death, and entered the heavenly Canaan! Let our improvements correspond with our privileges, and our practice with our knowledge. Let our wills always bow to the decisions of our judgments; and may we choose not what is pleasing to sense, but what is approved in the exercise of faith; and never condemn ourselves in the things that we allow. We are exposed to the view of many, to the misinterpretation of our doings, and to the reproach of our

motives; enable us therefore to exercise ourselves to have a conscience void of offence, before God and man, and to prove that we are Israelites indeed, in whom is no guile. When trials visit us, may we not think that any strange thing has happened to us, but that which is common to men; and especially so to the people of God. May we enter the furnace trusting in thee; while we continue there, instead of thinking we do well to be angry, may we be grateful for the past, and resigned for the future; and when we come forth, may it be clearly seen that what was valuable has been purified, and what was impure has been removed.

Shepherd of Israel, we thank thee that thou art still with us. Though we brought nothing into the world, and can carry nothing out, thou art mercifully providing for the necessities of our passage through. We ought to say, and we pray thee to enable us to do so, The Lord shall be our God, for he hath kept us in all our ways by his power and goodness, giving us bread to eat and raiment to put on, granting us a quiet and peaceable habitation to dwell in, a lodging-place where we have taken our rest in safety; often preventing us with the blessings of goodness, and granting the requests of our lips. O God, let a deep *sense of thy* presence go ever with us and

rest upon us, that we may be in thy fear all the day long, and thus be kept and delivered from evil, and have our hearts more and more established in every good word and work.

O Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ACCORDING to thy promise, O Lord our God, be pleased to pour out thy Holy Spirit upon us who now bow at thy mercy-seat.

Now call forth every feeling suitable to thy worship, and commanded by thy word. And then give ear to our prayer, O God, and hide not thyself from our supplications; but hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest forgive, and accept of our persons, and an offering at our hands.

Every view we take of the greatness and excellency of thy character reminds us of the degradation and depravity of our own. Thou art highly exalted, we are fallen; thou art holy, we are impure; thou art true, we have gone forth from our birth speaking lies; thou art

just, we are unrighteous; thy resources are inexhaustible, we have none; we are completely destitute, and we are lost, if thou dost not rescue us, and bless us, and save us. Nor would we refuse to confess before thee that we have destroyed ourselves, and that we could not reproach thee, wert thou to leave us to be filled with our ways, and to eat of the fruit of our own devices. How shall we magnify thee for the hope that thou wilt not? To its acknowledgment we are totally unequal; but if thou wilt regard us, we will take up now the language of thanksgiving, and we will utter thy praise through eternal ages.

Blessed be the Lord for ever that he has laid help upon one that is mighty, with whom his hand is established, and his covenant shall stand fast. And blessed for ever be Immanuel who said, Lo I come, in the volume of the book it is written of me, I come to do thy will, O God. And blessed for ever be that Holy Spirit, who, while Jesus has obtained for us eternal redemption through the offering of his body once for all, regenerates and sanctifies the lost, and gives them here a foretaste of heaven.

Thou hast commanded us, O Lord, to believe in thy Son. O let us not reject the *counsel of God* against ourselves, lest thou

shouldst say, Behold ye despisers and wonder, and perish; but remembering that we are as welcome as we are guilty, may our language be, Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief. We thank thee for the word of truth, which proclaims peace with heaven, peace around, and peace within, through the blood of the cross. O let the message of this salvation prevail. Let it slay the enmity of our hearts, and cause us to throw down every weapon of rebellion, and to weep that we ever raised our puny arm against the Majesty of heaven and earth, whose beauty demands our love, whose benefits lay claim to our gratitude, and who is able to make every pore, and every faculty, the channel and the seat of inexpressible anguish. And as we have long employed thy gifts against thee, may we henceforth employ them for thee. May thine adversaries be considered ours. With the world, the flesh, and the devil, may we engage in conflict as with deadly foes. Encourage us during the warfare with the hope of triumph. May thy promises, the union of Christ with his people, the examples of those who have gone before, and our personal experience of thy goodness, cheer our souls in every struggle. So long as we live may we fight the good fight of faith, persuaded that there cannot be a cessation of

hostilities. May it be enough that the conflict will terminate with death, and that then we shall wear the white robes, and bear the palm.

While we oppose evil, enable us to do good. As followers of Him who pleased not himself, who though he was rich yet for our sakes became poor, may we occupy the stations assigned us in thy providence; and constantly may we inquire what ability we have for promoting the welfare of men in their bodies, and their souls. As Jesus is an Apostle for us, may we be Apostles in his cause. May our conduct speak when our lips are silent; and may all our dispositions and actions hold forth the word of life. We would be Priests also. We would offer thee the sacrifices of prayer and praise, and the sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And we would intercede for all whom we love; for those, if such there be, who despise us and hate us; for the Christian church, and for the world which lieth in the wicked one; and fervently would we pray that thy temporal and spiritual gifts may descend in rich abundance.

Accept our feeble and unworthy tribute to the goodness that has followed us through this day. And still, O God, remember us. The Lord bless us, and keep us. The Lord

make his face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace. We ask it in the name and for the sake of the adorable Redeemer. *Amen.*

THURSDAY MORNING.

WHO by searching can find out God? Who can find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what can we do? deeper than hell; what can we know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea. And yet, O Lord, thou hast not left thyself without witness. The invisible things of God are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even thine eternal power and Godhead; so that none, if ignorant of thee, can be without excuse. But thou hast peculiarly distinguished us. Thou hast bestowed upon us thy word which thou hast magnified above all thy name, and hast given us line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little.

Graciously teach us, we humbly entreat *thee, that* the condemnation of heathens will

be more tolerable than ours, if we know not Him whom to know is life eternal. We cannot scatter the clouds that envelope our understandings, but thou canst by thy Spirit, for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. And the influences of that divine agent thou hast encouraged us not to wait for, but to supplicate, saying, If ye being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give his holy Spirit unto them that *ask* him.

Enable us then, O Lord, to wrestle with thee at this time for the promised boon. O grant it unto us for thy name and mercy's sake. We would not let thee go except thou bless us. Address us as thou didst thine ancient people, As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort thee. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee on the palms of my hands: thy walls are continually before me.

O make us instant in prayer. Often may we retire to our closets, and pour forth our hearts before thee. If expressions be copious, may we find them good. But let us remember that words are not necessary to inform Him

who knows all things; or to move Him, who is more ready to give than we are to receive. And when we cannot employ them may we lie as suppliants at thy footstool, knowing that thou wilt hear the voice of our *weeping*, that our *desire* is before thee, that our *groaning* is not hid from thee.

The morning tells us, O God, of thy great goodness. How many have during the night been houseless, but our tabernacle has been, and is, in peace. How many have been sleepless, but our frames have been refreshed by repose. How many have been bereaved, numerous are the dwellings in which there is one dead, but we still live, and move, and have our being. All this we owe not to men, nor to angels, but to thee. Accept then, in infinite condescension, our individual and united thanksgivings. Fill our hearts with gratitude, and our mouths with praise. May all our streams lead us to the fountain of living waters. And let every gift be as another cord to bind us to thy service.

Numerous as have been thy bestowments, O Lord, we are still needy. Mercifully undertake for us. Indulge us with all that is necessary for life and godliness. And though thou hast a right to withhold, as well as to *bestow*, withdraw not thyself from us:

For oh! thou bounteous Giver of all good,
Thou art of all thy gifts thyself the crown:
Give what thou canst, without thee, we are poor,
And with thee rich, take what thou wilt away.

O be thou on our side, and we will not fear. Should danger come, we shall be safe. Should trials come, we shall be kept in perfect peace. Should temptations come, we shall be invincible. Should death come, though absent from the body we shall be present with the Lord.

Save us, O God, from tempting thee to depart. We would not grieve thy Holy Spirit, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption. O guard us against sin in every form. Preserve us from the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things, which choke the word, so that it becometh unfruitful. May we watch daily at the gates of wisdom, and wait at the posts of her doors. Never may we consider thy work done, until the night is come, in which no man can work. Give us the diligence that is increased by difficulty; and devotion, like that of the Syrophenician woman, which is stimulated by seeming refusals.

Have mercy, O Lord, on all men; on kings, and all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness

and honesty; on the poor, the afflicted, the oppressed, that their sorrows may be turned into joy; on thy ministers, that they may testify the glorious gospel of the grace of God; and on all who listen to their voice, that they may do, as well as hear; and unite with us in ascriptions of praise to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD, we praise not the gods of silver and gold, of brass and wood, which see not, nor hear, nor know; but we would glorify thee, in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways; the God of all flesh, who formeth the spirit of man within him, and in whose hand is every living thing. Were we to neglect this, or to do so formally and hypocritically, how great would be our guilt! Notwithstanding the number of thy dependents, and the heinousness of our offences, thou hast again spread our table with thy bounties, hast defended us by thy power, and hast permitted us to assemble for domestic worship. O what a privilege is this! Thou *hast heard* the prayer of thy prophet, Pour

out thy fury on the families that call not on thy name; and many there have been, and many there are, on which it will descend. And why has it not fallen on us? Why are not we aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in world? We trust that thou hast taught us that the way of transgressors is hard, and that it is good to draw nigh unto thee. May we still sit at thy feet. Remove whatever reluctance we feel to learn of thee, and to engage in thy service; and let our sacrifices be always sincere, and acceptable. We rejoice that thou hast revealed unto us one, who is God manifest in the flesh. Had it not been for this, we could have formed no clear conceptions of thee. As God in nature, thou art a God above us; as God in law, thou art a God against us; as God in Christ, thou art a God with us, and for us.

Now, blessed be thy name, we can contemplate thee, not only as saying in the greatness of thy character, Let there be light; but in all thy benignity, Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. O put this fear in our breasts; —the fear of a child, not of a slave. May we come unto thee, not as dragged by thy power, but drawn by thy love; and instead of

keeping back any part of the possession, may we regret after giving thee all we have, that we have no more to offer. O forbid that there should be one exception to such a surrender in this family, or among its beloved connexions. Suffer not Satan, O thou God of our fathers, to find in our circle a single victim. Take, we implore thee, the prey from the mighty. As we all bear the Christian name, may we put on the Lord Jesus Christ;—as we are thy servants professedly, may we be so really;—as we have surrounded thine altar on earth, may we meet around thy throne in heaven. What shall it profit us if we gain the whole world, and lose our own souls? What could we give in exchange for our souls? O may we all have diligence to make our calling and election sure; and doing this we shall never fall.

We have concluded the secular engagements of the day; and as thou hast said, Cast thy burden on the Lord, we would desire to obey thy voice. May we ever avoid what thou hast forbidden, and dread to engage in any thing on which we cannot ask thy blessing. Give us grace to prefer poverty to ill-gotten gain, and the reproach which often attends adherence to truth, to the glittering curses of falsehood. Instruct us to *feel that* better is a little that the righteous

hath, than great riches of the ungodly; and that lying lips are an abomination to thee, while thou blessest the habitation of the just. In hours of leisure, and in seasons of recreation, may we be persuaded that thy law, which allows of these, will not permit us to violate with impunity one of its commands. If any should exclaim, Tush, God will not see, may we reply, He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? He that formed the eye, shall he not see? He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? He that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know? Though many around us are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose god is their belly, who mind earthly things, and over whom the ministers of the gospel weep; may our language be that of Nehemiah, So did not I, because of the fear of God. May we prove that the kingdom of heaven, that true religion, is like the earth which bringeth forth fruit of itself, first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. And till we come to our graves as a shock of corn cometh in in his season, do us good. Never leave us, never forsake us. May we find thy word sweet, thy ways instructive, thine ordinances delightful, thy favour life, and that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. And to

God who chose us, Christ who redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us, shall be praise, and power immortal. *Amen.*

FRIDAY MORNING.

GREAT and holy God, how shall we come before thee? Thou art the Almighty Jehovah; we are but dust and ashes. From everlasting to everlasting thou art the source of truth; we are of yesterday, and know nothing. Our meanness compared with thy majesty ought to fill us with humility in thy presence. But, O Lord, there is a stronger reason for our abasement; thou hast nourished and brought us up as children, and we have rebelled against thee. The orbs of heaven obey thy commands, but these we have violated; the ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib, but we have not known thy judgments, we have not considered thy mercies. Surely man is born in sin, and is at enmity with God! How ignorant is he, yet how confident! How vile, yet how arrogant! In what need of compassion, yet how unmerciful! How guilty, yet how impenitent! How bold in iniquity, though conscience reproves! O the spoils, and ruin, and desola-

tion, which sin has made! It has darkened our minds, perverted our wills, debased our affections, disordered our passions, hardened our hearts, and drawn us away from the ever-blessed God, to love the things which are displeasing to thee, and destructive to our souls.

But thy patience, O God, in bearing with us is wonderful, and thy goodness in pardoning the penitent is boundless. Thou hast sent forth thy ministers as ambassadors for Christ; and as though thou didst beseech us by them, they pray us, in Christ's stead, to be reconciled to thee. Instead of directing to us the thunders of thy wrath, thou art pleased to soothe us by the voice of mercy. We would therefore take thee at thy word. Be graciously pleased to stretch forth thy powerful hand, and to loose the chains of our sins, by which we are bound. O grant deliverance to the captives. Enable us to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and let us not be entangled with any yoke of bondage.

Assist us in striving against the sin which most easily besets us. May it be constantly resisted by holy principles within, be weakened day by day, and be numbered with the trophies of thy grace. And if its influence

has been observed by others, may its conquest obtain their tribute to thy power.

O that under a sense of obligation we could live a life of praise! Aid us, O our God, to serve thee sincerely, without hypocrisy; cheerfully, without dullness; universally, without partiality; and constantly, without being weary in well-doing. Let no trials cause us to distrust thee, and no temptations draw us from thee; but let all thy dispensations be received as messengers of love; and be the means of making our communion with thee more sweet, and more heavenly. In the midst of afflictions may we live godly in Christ Jesus. Though our religion be imperfect, may its activity and tendency to growth prove it to be real and vital. O make it our constant attendant, and cause it to dignify us in the ordinary scenes of life. Teach us to remember, that greatness consists not in doing great things, but in doing little things with a great mind. May we be living expositors of thy truth, and may many glorify God in us.

And while we ask so many blessings at thine hand, help us to adore thee for those which we have already received, and are continually receiving from thee.

Many, O Lord, are the wonderful works

which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward. We cannot reckon them. If we would declare them, and speak of them, they are more than we are able to express. Praised be thy name daily; even thine, O God, who helpest us, and pourest out thy benefits upon us. Praised be thy name, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same; and from this time forth for evermore.

Remember, most merciful Father, the millions who are necessitous as ourselves, but who were never favoured with our advantages. They feel guilt, but know nothing of the blood that cleanseth from all sin; they are depraved, but know nothing of the renewing of the Holy Ghost;—they are bleeding to death of their spiritual wounds, but no one tells them of the balm in Gilead, and the Physician there. Send them, O Lord, thy light and thy truth, for thy great name's sake. *Amen.*

FRIDAY EVENING.

O THOU who art the immutable Jehovah, we adore the exceeding riches of thy grace. We stand in awe of thy power; we abase ourselves before thine holiness; we admire thy

wisdom. A view of thy greatness only would drive us from thy seat; but a discovery of thy goodness banishes our fears, and attracts us with humble confidence to thy throne, to confess our sins, and to divulge our sorrows. And O how encouraging is it, under a review of our past guilt, and a sense of present unworthiness, to know we have to do with one who waits to be gracious, and is exalted to have mercy. We bless thee for the assurance that thou art love; and as thou hast not spared thine only Son, but hast freely delivered him up for us all, we know that depending on Him, thou wilt withhold nothing that will promote our present peace, or our eternal welfare.

We are amazed, O Lord, when we reflect on thy gift of a Saviour to our fallen and wretched race. How beautiful on the mountains are his feet, at whose birth the song was heard, Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will to men. We bless thee for devising such means to rescue us from perdition, and to restore us to a state of honour, and safety, and happiness, far superior to our original condition. We rejoice that when he was despised and rejected of men, and smitten and afflicted by thee, yet he failed not, nor was discouraged, but finished the work that was given him to do;

so that thy justice is satisfied, thy truth established, thy law made honourable, and a foundation laid, even in thy glory, for our hope. O make us more willing to be supplied from the fulness of the once crucified, but now exalted Redeemer! And for this purpose, may thy Spirit convince us of sin. May our character and condition appear before us as they do before thee. Give us hearts not insensible as stone, but susceptible as flesh. Soften our minds to bewail the corruption of our nature, our pride and unbelief, our folly and ingratitude. O that we may abhor ourselves, repenting in dust and ashes! Through the law may we die unto the law, and despair of obtaining life but from thy sovereign and boundless mercy. Cause us to walk in thy statutes, and incline us to keep thy judgments. May we know Christ in the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, and be made conformable unto his death.

Hear our desires, most gracious God. We would now diligently seek thee that thou wouldst do these things for us. We have no plea but our lost and helpless state, the merits of Jesus, and thine own glory. O let these prevail in our behalf, as they have for ransomed millions.

Thou, O Lord, hast promised, and what

thou hast spoken, thou wilt do. Thou canst not deny thyself. And as we have much forgiven, may we love much. Endue us with a spirit of tenderness and compassion like that to which we are, and must be constantly indebted. Teach us to devise liberal things, and freely to give of what we have. Instead of bestowing with a grudging hand, dispose us thankfully to improve every occasion of relieving the bodily and spiritual wants of our fellow-creatures. O that no talent committed to our care may be either abused or unemployed! If we have much, may God be honoured with all our increase; if we have but a cup of cold water, may it be given in the name of a disciple; and if we can only pray, may our petitions be answered in others becoming benefactors.

We grieve to think, O Lord, how insensible we have been to the claims of thine authority, and the endearments of thy love. How little have we credited thy truth, trusted thy promises, feared thy threatenings, obeyed thy commands, or improved any of our privileges. Even this day has added to our unnumbered offences. O pardon all our sins, and mercifully blot out all our transgressions.

We thank thee, that notwithstanding our desert, we are yet in the land of the living. *Again we* magnify thee as our protector. May

thy long-suffering prove our salvation. Let no evil befal us through the night. Receive us, and all for whom we ought to pray, into thy fatherly care. Thou only art he who makest men to dwell in safety. Through our earthly pilgrimage be our God. Sanctify to us every event and every gift. And O forsake not thy tabernacle, the tent which thou hast placed among men, nor let those days ever come, wherein thou wilt send a famine in the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water; but of hearing the words of the Lord.

And now unto the Lord God Almighty, Father, Son, and Spirit, be endless praises. *Amen.*

SATURDAY MORNING.

WE present ourselves before thy glorious majesty, most blessed Lord God, to pay thee that tribute of homage and service, of prayer and praise, which is so justly due. We desire the acceptance of ourselves and our offerings through Jesus the Redeemer. In his name we come at thy command and worship at thy footstool, imploring thy pardon, and entreating thee to grant us fresh tokens of thy love. We are *not* worthy that thou shouldst notice

us, or be supplicated by us, but ever worthy is the Lamb of God, for he has borne our sins in his own body on the tree; and in him thou art reconciled to us, who deserve only to be forsaken and abhorred. Teach us, O Lord, we pray thee, that as are thine excellencies so are thy claims; and that according to thy benefits are our obligations. Never suffer us to give that honour to another which is due to thee alone. How often, alas! have this guilt and folly been ours! We have worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator; and justly hast thou left us to be ashamed of our hope. In many instances our idols have deceived us, and our fountains proved but broken cisterns that could hold no water. But thou hast never disappointed us when we have made thy word our trust; thou hast fulfilled in our experience all thy promises; and in thee thy people find a safe guide amidst intricate paths; a supporter when they are faint; a protector when assaulted; a comforter when distressed; and a refuge when pursued.

Help us, O God, devoutly to acknowledge thee in all our ways, and do thou direct our paths. As thou didst lead thy people Israel in safety through the wilderness, going before them by day in a pillar of cloud, and by night

in a pillar of fire, be thou mercifully pleased to lead, and protect, and bless us, in the way in which we should go. Enable us so to manage our temporal affairs, as not to be enslaved by them. Moderate our desires, that we may not engage in so much business as to distract our thoughts, and disqualify us for the duties and enjoyments of religion. In all our transactions save us from those foolish and hurtful lusts by which many are ruined. In circumstances of difficulty may we choose distress rather than dishonour; and instead of trusting in human wisdom alone, may we call upon thee in the day of trouble. For, O most gracious God, there is no wisdom like thy wisdom, no power like thy might, and no dependance equal to that of making thee our trust. And in the day of prosperity may we rejoice. May we trace in our blessings the love of our heavenly Father; may we know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life;—and in using them in thy fear, and to thine honour, inspire us with the delight with which no stranger intermeddles.

Impress on our minds, O Lord, the value of time: let it not be enough for us to be kept from mispending it, but may we be desirous to improve it. May we appreciate minutes as well as hours; redeeming them

by diligence, steadiness, and perseverance, assured of their worth from their connection with eternity. O let us not squander them in what is useless, much less in what is injurious to ourselves, or to others. Be thou our helper, and all that thou hast commanded us we will do.

Strengthen us, O Lord, by thy gracious Spirit, that we may be more watchful against temptation, and more victorious over corruption. Destroy in us every vicious inclination, every evil habit, and whatever exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and of Jesus Christ our LORD. Increase and confirm in us more and more, every Christian grace; and especially implant what thou knowest to be most wanting in us, and most necessary for us. Make our hearts sincere in thy sight, and our lives pure before our fellow-creatures. Dispose us by all suitable means to avoid their just reproach, and to seek thy favour as our highest reward.

We have now entered on the last day of another week. O that it may be its best day! May it excite our efforts as well as our prayers. Assist thy ministers in their preparations for approaching services. Give us grace to put the affairs of life in such order to-day, as shall prevent their interrupting us to-morrow; and also that preparation

of heart with which we ought to attend thine ordinances.

Now, blessed be God for all his gifts, both of nature and of grace; for those that concern this life, and that which is to come; especially for Jesus Christ, the foundation and medium of all; to whom, with thyself, O Father, and the Almighty Spirit of grace, be praises, equal and immortal. *Amen.*

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and art to come; thou whose name alone is Jehovah, the Most High over all the earth. While angels and archangels adore thee, and multitudes of thy faithful servants in this lower world magnify thee, deign to behold this household, humble and unworthy as it is; and accept the tributes of our lips and of our hearts. We know that it is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us, that in every thing we give thanks; and therefore we would be grateful to the Lord who hath done great things for us, whose mercy is everlasting, and whose truth endureth to all generations. We have once more to record thy goodness in the bounties of thy providence; thou hast caused

the outgoings of the mornings and of the evenings to rejoice over us; and notwithstanding our numberless provocations, thou art still bending over us in paternal love, and urging us to implore the greatest of thy gifts. May we gladly and gratefully improve this privilege, amazed at thy willingness to regard us, and exulting in thine ability to bless us.

O Lord, give to each of us an interest in Him whom thou hast provided for our deliverance from all the effects of sin, for the justification of our persons, the sanctification of our natures, and our perseverance in the path which leadeth to heaven. We are exposed in consequence of transgression to the terrors of the law; may we find that there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. And compelled as we are to lay our hands on our mouths, and our mouths in the dust, and to cry, Unclean, unclean! may we experience the cleansing efficacy of his most precious blood; and may we henceforth live in him, and he in us. Though many around us seek pleasure in the vanities of this world, may we feel that they will prove as unsatisfying to our souls as they are unsuitable;—may the joy of the Lord be our strength, and may our peace flow as a river.

As this night our souls may be required of

us, make us individually solicitous to know whether we have yet believed on Him, without whom we must perish. O God, quicken us, and urge us irresistibly to this all-important inquiry. If we are still far off, suffer us not to give sleep to our eyes, nor slumber to our eye-lids till we have entreated thee to bring us nigh; and if we have been thus distinguished, O do thou enrich us by still larger communications. We would feel that if we wait, the grave is our house;—that whether we have been high or low, rich or poor, learned or ignorant, will be of no importance to us, for the small, and the great are there; but that it will be of infinite moment to have believed in Christ. And by the uncertainty of life, the solemnity of death, the irreversible decisions of the judgment-day, do thou stimulate us to attend to the things that make for our peace. O that our hearts were deeply affected by the folly and criminality of presumption and neglect! Forbid, we beseech thee, that we should exclaim, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!" Preserve us from the doom of those whose punishment will be sorer than that of the despisers of Moses' law, who died without mercy. O God, in thee is our hope; be still our confidence. Witness with our spirits

that we are thy children, or if this testimony be withheld, let us still cleave unto thee.

We would magnify the Lord that our lot is cast in this highly-favoured land. Thou, O God, mightest have made the place of our birth in those regions of darkness which are full of the habitations of cruelty; but we were born where the true light shineth, and we can hear words whereby we may be saved. Awaken our gratitude for the discoveries, the invitations, and the promises of the gospel of peace. O that our thankfulness may be evinced, if we are permitted to-morrow to listen to those glad tidings of pardon for rebels, health for the sick, liberty for captives, and a free, full, and everlasting salvation for the lost. We have often deplored and confessed our negligence and our worldliness; may we then prove that our lamentations were sincere. In a state of mind suited to its solemnities, duties, and privileges, may the Sabbath be passed through. May we leave every thing worldly at the foot of the mount, while we go to worship God above.

Remember, we pray thee, those from whom thine ordinances have been withdrawn; the Israelites, to whom pertained the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the services of God;

and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came. O take the veil from their hearts, and bring them in with the fulness of the Gentiles, for his sake, who is over all, God blessed for ever. *Amen.*

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

For Preparation for the Lord's Supper.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. And blessed be thy holy name, O Lord, that thou hast given us this day as an emblem of the Sabbath that is eternal. We pray that thou wouldst prepare our hearts for all its services, and, especially, for that heavenly banquet which thou hast provided for the disciples of the Saviour. Help as many of us as are invited, to obey thy commandment; and though we are altogether unworthy to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet accept our tribute, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences for the sake of thy dear Son. As thou hast given spiritual sustenance, afford unto us a spiritual appetite; that as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, our souls may pant after thee, O God.

Work in us, we beseech thee, those holy dispositions, and excite in us those devout affections which are suited to this ordinance. Pour out upon us the Spirit of grace and of supplications, that we may look on Him whom we have pierced, and mourn for Him, as one mourneth for an only son. May the blood of Christ, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself without spot to God, purge our consciences from dead works to serve the living God. Give us to feel the constraining influence of the Redeemer's love, and may we cherish a sincere and affectionate regard to all the family of man; but especially to those who are of the household of faith. O make manifest to us the pardon of our sins and the assurance of thy favour. And as thou sealest the covenant of grace, help us to seal the covenant of obedience; and so may we wait upon thee that we may return from thy table with our corruptions subdued, our graces increased, and our souls encouraged to run with delight the way of thy commandments. Ardently do we wish that we as a family were about to surround the sacramental board. O that this may speedily be our distinguished privilege!

Thou mighty Spirit, let all the objects of our affection be new creatures in Christ Jesus; and having given themselves to the Lord,

may they give themselves to his people. Say unto them, Eat, O friends, drink, yea drink abundantly, O beloved, and may we be united by sacred as well as natural bonds through Him who is the founder of the feast. *Amen.*

For any who have partaken of the Lord's Supper.

We desire, with all our souls, to adore and magnify thy blessed name, O Lord God, our heavenly Father, for all the expressions of thy love to us, guilty and unworthy sinners; but particularly for the renewed tokens of thy favour in Christ Jesus, which we have enjoyed this day. Thou hast graciously admitted some of us, not only into thine house, but to thy table; and used us not as servants, but as friends and as children. O what manner of love is this that we who deserve so ill at thine hands, should fare so well—that the God so greatly offended by us, should not merely forgive us, but feast us with all the good things which Jesus has merited and prepared! O Lord, give us hearts deeply sensible of thy mercy, and ever dependent on thy grace. Help us to remember the solemn vows which we have again made in thy presence, and in the presence of thy people, and enable us truly to

perform them. May we bear about us the marks of a crucified Saviour. Having once more enlisted ourselves under the banner of the Captain of our salvation, enable us to endure hardness as good soldiers of Christ Jesus. Endue us with power to vanquish the world, the flesh, and the devil. Encourage our hearts in this holy warfare by the examples of the glorious company of the apostles, the goodly fellowship of the prophets, the noble army of martyrs, and by those of all the members of the holy church triumphant, who have been made more than conquerors through him who bought them with his blood. May the ordinances we enjoy manifestly improve our temper and spirit. May the habits of our minds, and the actions of our lives, be pure. May the image of Christ impressed upon our souls be more and more visible. May we exert in our spheres all the attractive energy of holiness.

And, O Lord, graciously add to the graces of thy ransomed people. O let them be valiant for the cause of truth, and meekness, and righteousness. For Zion's sake may they not hold their peace, and for Jerusalem's sake may they not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. Ever be with that church of the living God of which

we form a part, and may the little one become a thousand.

Save now, we beseech thee, O Lord; O Lord, we beseech thee, send now prosperity, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For a New-married Party.

Most blessed, and glorious Lord God, whose we are, and whom alone we are bound to worship and obey; now instruct us, and guide us, that we may wait upon thee without distraction; for we cannot of ourselves order our speech, by reason of darkness. Deeply impress our minds by a sense of thy great and glorious perfections; make us truly thankful for thy benefits, and may we pray with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

We approach thee, O God, particularly in behalf of those who have this day entered a state honourable to all. May the husband love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband; that they may walk together like Zacharias and Elizabeth in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. May they feel how good and pleasant a thing it is to dwell together in unity; that better is a

dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith;—that better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of strife. Preserve them from the evils which diminish and destroy the comfort and prosperity of the married state; and may they observe order, cultivate sweetness of temper, and exercise religious principles, as so many means of happiness. Make them upright, that while the house of the wicked is overthrown, their tabernacle may flourish, and thy blessing may rest on their habitation. Give them grace to rear this night a domestic altar, and to offer acceptable sacrifices every morning and evening. There may they obtain in perplexity thy guidance, in weakness thy strength, in pain thy support, in sorrow thy consolations, in danger thy deliverance, and in separation thy succour. Pleasant in life, in death may they not be divided; but heirs of the grace of life, may they meet in that world where all tears shall be wiped from off all faces, and the days of our mourning shall be ended.

Bring fully before us, O Lord, by the events that have just transpired, the union of Christ with his people. May we form a part of that church which shall appear as a bride adorned for her husband. So may we be brought into thy banqueting-house on earth, and find that

thy banner over us is love; and at last may we share in the blessedness of those who are called to the marriage-supper of the Lamb. We implore these favours in the name of our Advocate with the Father. *Amen.*

For a Person seriously Afflicted, or a Woman approaching Labour.

O Lord, thou art our gracious God, our chief good, and our most merciful Father in Christ Jesus. In his great name, and through his prevailing mediation, we are encouraged still to present our persons and our prayers before thee. O deliver us, for his sake, from all the transgressions for which our hearts condemn us; and from all, for which thou, who art greater than our hearts, knowest us to be guilty. And particularly do thou regard one who is now chastened with strong pain. O that thou wouldst strengthen for the crisis, and then command relief. Soften, if it please thee, O God, the strokes of thy rod, and let a season of anguish issue in joy. Though the body be agonized we know that thou canst keep the mind in perfect peace, and we earnestly beseech thee to infuse this heavenly serenity. O grant a preparation for thy will, whatever it may be.

May those affected by this trial adore thee as the supreme disposer of all events, and say it is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good. But we are allowed to implore deliverance with submission; nothing is too hard for the Lord: thou canst heal as well as wound: we therefore pray thee, if it be thy good pleasure, to bless the means that are employed to renew the strength, and to prolong the days, of thy servant. Above all, let the dispensation be sanctified to the sufferer, and his (or her) connexions. May the affliction of the body lead us to consider the malady of the soul—the evil of sin, which has defaced its beauty, and weakened its powers, and filled it with pain, and exposed it to endless misery. We rejoice that there is balm in Gilead, that there is a Physician there; and earnestly would we cry, Heal us, O Lord, and we shall be healed, save us, and we shall be saved, for thou art our praise. Aware that this is the accepted time, that this is the day of salvation, may we now look on the Son of man who was lifted up on Calvary, as the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness; and believing on Him may he be made of God unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

For Safe Delivery in Child-birth.

O God, thou art the source of all good. Without thee, our light is darkness; our wisdom, folly; our wealth, poverty; our happiness, disguised misery; yea, at our best estate, we are altogether vanity. From thy bountiful hand, O Lord, come all our blessings. To thee we are indebted for the food we eat, the health we enjoy, the instructors who edify us, the benefactors who help us, and the friends who love us. For thy great, thine unnumbered mercies we would praise thee; and devoutly would we magnify thee for thy deliverance in the hour of maternal distress, which we would now record. Thou hast heard our prayers and the voice of thine handmaid; thou hast been with her in her extremity, and made her the joyful mother of a living child. Graciously add to thy benefits by the renewal of her strength, and soon give her ability to resume the duties of her station. Bestow grace upon her, O God, to pay thee the vows which her soul made when in trouble. Write on her heart a law of love. May thy word be her only rule, and thy glory her constant aim. And from thy treasury may she receive daily and hourly supplies, until earth is exchanged for heaven.

And, O Lord, bless the babe which has just entered a world of sin and sorrow. Keep it as the apple of thine eye. Save it, if it please thee, from the numberless accidents and diseases to which it will be exposed. Let its temper be meek, and kind, and lovely. Particularly bestow upon it thy grace, and adopt it into thy family. O pour thy blessing upon our seed, and thy Spirit upon our offspring. May all our family be united to the family of which the Holy Ghost is the teacher, Christ the elder brother, and God the father. Enable us, who are parents, to seek and cultivate that godliness by which we may leave an inheritance to our children's children—an inheritance of precepts, and examples, and prayers. If those who are like olive branches round about our table should be deprived of their father, be thou the father of the fatherless; or should they lose their mother, as one whom his mother comforteth, so do thou comfort them. And if *we* should be called to resign one or more of them, prepare us for the trial, and make it a blessing; and we will ascribe to the glorious Trinity undivided and immortal praises. *Amen.*

For a Bereaved Family.

JUST and true are all thy ways, O King of saints. May we be enabled, by thine aid, always to remember this, and especially to acknowledge thy wisdom and righteousness in the breach which thou hast made in this family. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, and blessed be the name of the Lord. Thou hast resumed what was lent us for a season, and what never ceased to be thine own. We would be dumb—we would not open our mouths, because thou didst it. O that we may find it is better to be in the house of mourning than in the house of mirth! By the sadness of the countenance purify our hearts. Teach us, O Lord, by this dispensation, the vanity of life, the uncertainty of our earthly comforts, our entire dependence on thee, and the infinite value of thy favour, and of an interest in Jesus Christ, which alone can yield us support in this vale of tears. O let the drying up of this rivulet lead us more sincerely and importunately to the fountain of living waters; let the breaking of this bruised reed urge us to rest henceforward on the Rock of everlasting Ages.

May we be suitably affected by our own frailty and mortality. When a few years are *come* we shall go that way whence we shall

not return. Yea, in a few months, or weeks, our heads may lie beneath the clods of the valley; we may say unto corruption, thou art our father, and to the worm, thou art our mother, and our sister. Even this night our souls may be required of us. Whatsoever our hands find to do, give us grace to do with our might; knowing that there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither we are going. May we know in whom we have believed, and be persuaded that he is able to keep that which we have committed unto him, against that day. Help us, O God, to live as becometh dying, and yet immortal creatures; and grant, we beseech thee, that whatever painful separations death may make between any of us who now survive, we may all meet the dear departed in that blessed world, where there is no more sorrow, nor crying, but where our harps shall ever send forth the notes of joy and praise.

And now unto Him who took part of our nature, that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their life time subject to bondage—unto the great God, even our Saviour Jesus Christ, be glory and honour immortal. *Amen.*

For a Youth leaving Home for Business.

O Thou who hast said, like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him; behold this family now prostrate at thy feet. Hear our petitions, O Lord, who are parents, that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth,—that our daughters may be as corner-stones, polished after the similitude of a palace. And let our earnest prayers at this time prevail with thee for him who is now leaving the parental roof. O let him from this hour cry unto thee, my Father, thou shalt be the guide of my youth. In all his ways may he acknowledge thee, and do thou direct his paths. May he never neglect the Bible, the closet, or the sanctuary, lest he should come to sorrow, and to shame. Sanctify to him the instructions he has received, that he may choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Shield him, thou mighty God, from the evils of the world. May integrity and uprightness preserve him. In the situation he is called to fill may his temporal, and especially his spiritual good be studied and promoted. May he there be diligent and faithful, dutiful and *obliging*, amiable and pious. O that he may

think, and feel, and act as beneath thine eye, and increase in favour with God as well as man. We recognize in this separation the appointment of the Lord, and may this soothe the pains of which we cannot but be conscious.

Thou, O our God, doest all things well. When absent in body may we be present in spirit; may our natural affection be sanctified and strengthened by inquiry and correspondence; and often may we meet at the throne of mercy, where we would desire to part. We trust, O God, that we shall embrace each other again in health and peace; grant, if it please thee, our desires in the multitudes of thy mercies; and may we adore thee as the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning, the giver of every good gift, and every perfect gift, through Jesus Christ our Lord, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For Recovery from Sickness.

O God, we desire, with all reverence and humility, to approach thee as a Being infinitely great and glorious. Thou art the perfection of all excellence, the fountain of all life, and the source of all blessedness.

Thou suppliest us in necessity, defendest us in peril, and deliverest us in trouble. Thou redeemest our life from destruction, and crownest us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. We bless thee that thou hast interposed in behalf of thy servant, who has been under thine afflicting hand. He (or she) was brought low, but thou hast helped him; thou hast chastened him sore, but thou hast not given him over unto death. May he not only live, but declare the works of the Lord. Dispose him daily and hourly to inquire, What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits towards me? May he take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. Now thou hast tried him may he come forth as gold. Now thou hast pruned him may he bear much fruit. May he live as though he felt that life is a vapour which appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Teach us, O God, that we are accountable for our afflictions. Whenever they come, may we praise thee for them as proofs of thy love; and whenever they are removed, may we pray that their effects may be valuable and permanent. Save us from the guilt of those who call forth the lamentation—O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth? Thou hast *stricken* them, but they have not grieved;

thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction; they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return. And may we ever remember that a recovery is only a reprieve; that the sentence that dooms the body to return to the dust is only suspended; and that, however long may seem its delay, the spirit will soon return to God who gave it. O that through faith in the ever-blessed Redeemer we may be prepared for the hour of death, the day of judgment, and a blissful eternity; and to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, will we ascribe all honour and praise for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For Persons going from Home.

BLESSED is the man, O Lord, who has thee for a refuge and strength, for thou art a present help in trouble. Be thou our portion and everlasting home. Teach us to worship thee with devout homage and reverence, for thou art great and greatly to be praised; and in all our ways to acknowledge thee, for thou art the guide and the preserver of men. At this time we entreat thee, to bless us who purpose leaving for a season our habita-

tion and friends. May all our steps be ordered by thee. Keep us safely in all the ways which we may go. Let no evil befal our persons, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. Many have parted with the hope of soon embracing each other again; but instead of this they have been conveyed to the house appointed for all living. We pray, with submission to thy will, that this may not be our experience. Thou wast graciously present with thy servant Jacob in his journey; and didst promise to bring him back in prosperous circumstances to his native land; fulfil this promise in our behalf. May we know that our tabernacle is in peace, and visit our habitation, and not sin. By the dispensations of thy providence, O God, as well as by the works of thine hand and the word of thy truth, may we be admonished. We are strangers and sojourners on earth, as were all our fathers. May we arise and depart, convinced that this is not our rest. Save us from the snares of this delusive world. May we expect no more from it than thou hast promised. If we have much, may we enjoy thee in all; if we have little, may we enjoy all in thee.

Hear us, O God of the spirits of all flesh! Above all, hear the Son of thy love, pleading *for us* at thy right hand. To him we commit

our cause, and to thee through him; trusting in thy tender mercy, and ascribing to him, to thyself, and to thy blessed Spirit, all possible honour, might, majesty, and dominion, both now and for ever. *Amen.*

For Safe Return from a Journey.

When we enter thy presence, O God, we see thee in all the glory of thy perfections, seated on a throne of universal and everlasting empire, thousands ministering unto thee, and ten thousand times ten thousand standing before thee; and humbly and reverently would we offer our adoration. But O how great is thy goodness! We will bless the Lord at all times, and his praise shall continually be in our mouth; for the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry. He maketh the humble glad; the angel of the Lord encampeth about them that fear him, and blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

We thank thee, O thou keeper of Israel, for the favours bestowed on us who have journeyed. We might have been injured by wicked men. We might have been enduring the agony of bruised or fractured limbs.

Our lives might have been like water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; and instead of thus meeting those we love, they might on our account have been filled with anguish and sorrow. And help us to magnify thy name for permitting thy secret to remain upon our tabernacle. It might have been in ruins, but thou hast preserved it from evil. O that from it there may ascend continually our grateful thanksgivings. And as we are still pilgrims through a desert land, guide us O thou great Jehovah. Uphold us by thy power, supply all our wants, let thy rod and staff comfort us; and all the days of our appointed years will we wait until our change come. May we be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, may we make our requests known unto God. Let the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, rest upon us, and remain with us for ever. *Amen.*

For a Servant coming into the Family.

Most gracious and most glorious Lord, who is like unto thee! Almighty in power, and yet abundant in mercy; of purer eyes than to look upon iniquity, yet long-suffering towards offenders. All our endeavours to shew forth thy praise must be feeble and imperfect. But thou lookest to the heart, and wilt accept the offerings of weak and sinful mortals, who desire to give thee the honour that is due to thy name. Lord, quicken us, and enable us to be instant in prayer, and let our thanksgivings be always acceptable.

Thou, O God, hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hast determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; and thou art no respecter of persons. And because the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him, we would entreat thee to pour out on the servant that has just entered our household a spirit of prayer. May she (or he) be happy and useful and honourable in her present station. May she take thy word as her guide, and ever remember the charge of thine apostle, Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as

men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God. Whatsoever she does, give her grace to do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord we shall receive the reward of the inheritance, who serve the Lord Christ; while those who do wrong shall receive for the wrong which they have done. Shewing all good fidelity, may she adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, and greatly contribute to our comfort and peace. And while she observes her duty to us, may we not forget our duty to her, but by all suitable means may we promote her temporal, and especially her eternal welfare.

Smile upon us, gracious Father; bless each of us and make us blessings; as needy creatures may we feel our dependance on thee, and as those who are hourly distinguished by thy favours may we be grateful for thy benefits, through Jesus our propitiation and Advocate. *Amen.*

For those visited with Worldly Disappointments and Losses.

God is true, and we worship the God of *truth.* For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled

in heaven, and thy faithfulness from generation to generation. Far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should commit iniquity; for the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways. Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

We have made these acknowledgments in the day of prosperity, and we would repeat them in the season of adversity. Though our circumstances have changed, thou, O God, art the same; for with thee is no variableness. Thou hast told us that all things here are full of labour—that the thoughts of men are vanity—and that their purposes often disappointed; and we are now proving the truth of thy word. O let us feel that thou art love, as well as righteous in all thy ways and holy in all thy works. We fall down and kneel before thee, the Lord our maker, in humble submission to thy correction. We have had fathers of our flesh who corrected us, and we gave them reverence; shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? Though no affliction for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; yet may it afterward yield the peaceable fruit of righteous-

ness unto us who are exercised thereby. O humble us under thine hand, forgive the heinous guilt that provokes thee to stretch it out against us, and let thy boundless compassion cover the multitude of our transgressions.

Remember, O Lord, thine unworthy creatures in mercy, and save us from our fears and dangers, and from our griefs and burdens, that we may comfortably spend our few remaining days, and glorify thy holy name for evermore. Who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever, the word which by the gospel is preached unto us. O enkindle our gratitude for its possession, awaken our attention to its truths, and dispose us cordially and fully to embrace all that it reveals. We rejoice that we have a great High Priest who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and who was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. In his dear name we come to thee, O our Father; may he now make intercession for us. *Amen.*

For a Friend at Sea.

O God of our salvation, who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are far off upon the sea, enable us to look to thee in behalf of all who demand an affectionate remembrance at thy footstool. We would more particularly plead for him who now sees the mighty works of the Lord, and beholds his wonders in the deep. The winds and the sea obey thee, O Most High. When thou utterest thy voice, the vapours ascend. There is a multitude of waters in the heavens; and thou bringest forth the wind out of thy treasures with lightnings and rain. At thy word a storm comes—the waves of the sea are raised—they mount up to the heavens—they go down again to the depth. The mariners are afraid,—their soul is melted because of trouble—they reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man,—and all their wisdom is swallowed up. Should these be his circumstances for whom we pray, then may he cry unto thee; do thou hear his distresses; say to the agitated elements, Peace, be still; and may his heart be filled with gratitude to the Preserver of men. But if it please thee, let his vessel be wafted to its destination by propitious gales. Be as the

bright and morning star to guide him through the dark and deep waters; and as a pillar of cloud to defend him from the injurious influence of a burning sun. May he triumph over all the temptations which assail him; and though cut off for a time from the services of thy temple, be thou to him a little sanctuary, and let him prove that thy richest blessings, like thy presence, may be every where enjoyed. The Lord preserve our friend in going out, and in coming home; yea, from this time forth and for evermore. And having, O God, opened to him of thy good treasure, and blessed all the works of his hands, give him when he reaches his harbour to declare: I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge, and my fortress, my God, in him will I henceforth trust, through the ever-blessed and gracious Redeemer. *Amen.*

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I. T. Hinton, Printer, Warwick Square.